

Hartford Courant



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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Experts watch for uptick

INSIDE: Connecticut's COVID-19 test positivity rate rose slightly over the past week, as data suggests that the BA.2 subvariant of omicron is gaining ground in the state. Experts believe it will be the dominant strain in the state by April. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Health officials keeping an eye on BA.2 omicron subvariant, which has shown up in wastewater

By Alex Puterman
Hartford Courant

As of Wednesday, Connecticut has fewer than 100 people hospitalized with COVID-19 for the first

time in nearly eight months. The state's seven-day average of new cases, meanwhile, stands at its lowest level since last summer.

For two months, all key metrics have pointed to less transmission

and less illness.

And yet experts say the encouraging trends may not last much longer. In the coming weeks, they say, Connecticut could face an uptick in cases owing to BA.2, an omicron subvariant that has contributed to an ongoing spike in parts of Europe.

Already, researchers who moni-

tor wastewater for signs of COVID-19 report a recent uptick at sites in both Fairfield and in New Haven, mirroring trends in other parts of the United States. During previous pandemic waves, wastewater surveillance has predicted increases in cases before they have

Turn to Virus, Page 3



MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

NEW MEXICO STATE 70, UCONN 63



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

ALLEN WRENCHED

INSIDE: UConn wasn't the only No. 5 seed to lose Thursday in Buffalo. Big Ten tournament champion Iowa fell to No. 12 seed Richmond, and the Spiders will now play Midwest Region No. 4 seed Providence for a spot in the Sweet 16. **NCAA Tournament Roundup, Sports Page 5**

UConn guard R.J. Cole drives against New Mexico State's Mario McKinney Jr. during the first half of the teams' first-round NCAA Tournament game Thursday in Buffalo, New York. New Mexico State's Teddy Allen scored 37 points, including 13 at the free-throw line, to lead the WAC champion Aggies to a 70-63 upset of the No. 5 seed Huskies. UConn trailed by as many as 14 points in the second half, but came back to take a brief lead with 3:10 to play before New Mexico State pulled away. Cole led the Huskies with 20 points, while Adama Sanogo added eight rebounds. UConn, which hasn't won a tournament game since 2016, finishes the season 23-10. **Coverage in Sports**

Bill aims to direct funds to magnets

Murphy, Blumenthal push to address racial isolation in schools

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

U.S. Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney on Wednesday introduced a bill that would amend a decades-old grant program to direct more federal dollars toward school districts planning to create new magnet schools to address racial isolation.

The Magnet Schools Accessibility, Growth, and Nonexclusionary Enrollment Transformation Act of 2022, or MAGNET Act, would update the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to prioritize applicants that use inclusive enrollment practices and have specific strategies for increasing diversity.

It would also fund grants for diversity efforts at existing magnet schools, which in Connecticut are poised to play an important role in addressing the racial segregation in the Hartford area now that the landmark *Sheff v. O'Neill* settlement is set for final approval.

"Diverse, integrated classrooms are good for all students, but the reality is American schools in many states are more segregated than ever," Murphy said.

"Investing in magnet schools

Turn to Magnets, Page 2

WAR IN UKRAINE

Scores more Ukrainians killed in broad attacks

By Andrea Rosa
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Rescue workers searched for survivors Thursday in the ruins of a theater blown apart by a Russian airstrike in the besieged city of Mariupol, while scores of Ukrainians across the country were killed in ferocious urban attacks on a school, a hostel and other sites.

Hundreds of civilians had been taking shelter in the grand, columned theater in central

Mariupol after their homes were destroyed in three weeks of fighting in the southern port city of 430,000.

More than a day after the airstrike, there were no reports of deaths. With communications disrupted across the city and movement difficult because of shelling and other fighting, there were conflicting reports on whether anyone had emerged from the rubble.

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3



Firefighters battle a blaze after a bomb attack Thursday in Kyiv, Ukraine. VADIM GHIRDA/AP

Trinity Health takes over name of Dillon Stadium

By Alex Puterman
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Dillon Stadium, home to the Hartford Athletic soccer team, will be renamed Trinity Health Stadium as part of a new rights agreement with the hospital chain, the team announced Thursday.

Hartford Athletic owner Bruce Mandell unveiled the new name at a press conference in the stadium tunnel, alongside Trinity Health of New England officials and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.

"We're thrilled to officially welcome you for the first time to Trinity Health Stadium," Mandell said.

According to renderings provided by the team, the stadium's new name will appear throughout the venue, including on a new sign outside its main entrance.

Trinity Health of New England, which operates four hospitals in Connecticut, including Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, has been a prominent

Turn to Stadium, Page 2

Farmington man shot and killed at home

A Farmington man was shot and killed Wednesday in the home he shared with his fiancée. Jorge Tejada Camacho, 31, was allegedly shot by his fiancée's brother. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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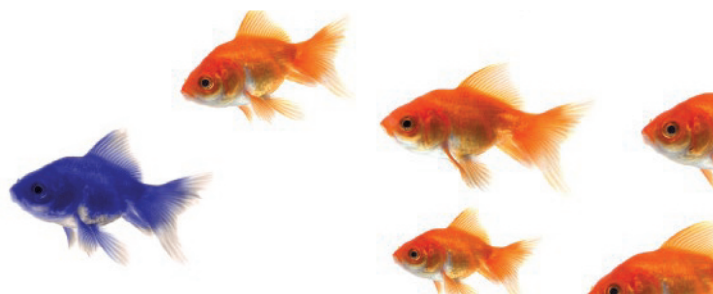


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FROM PAGE ONE

Magnets

from Page 1

that prioritize diversity is one way to make sure all students — regardless of their zip code — get a quality education,” Murphy added. “Our bill ensures more school districts can access federal grants to get their magnet programs off the ground, and existing schools continue receiving critical support for their efforts.”

“Magnet schools provide an important option for parents,” Blumenthal said. “By bringing together students from different zip codes, these schools are vital to improving equity and diversity in our classrooms

— contributing to overall success for students. The federal government should continue funding magnet schools while meeting its responsibility to provide better resources for all schools.”

Federal aid for magnet schools began in 1972 with the Emergency School Aid Act and continued later under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program with the specific purpose of addressing racial isolation.

But many magnet schools struggled to meet diversity goals in later years as the demand for seats at high-quality magnets began to exceed their supply.

In Connecticut, meanwhile, racial isolation in

non-magnet Hartford neighborhood schools has largely stayed the same or worsened.

Under the MAGNET Act, grants would be prioritized for districts that want to create new magnet schools with inclusive enrollment practices and emphasize interdistrict diversity.

The bill also tacks on a new program, the Supplemental Diversity Grant, that authorizes awards worth up to \$75 million for preexisting magnet schools to use on a range of programs that support diversity and accessibility.

President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed into law a new spending bill that included \$124 million for the Magnet Schools Assis-

tance Program, a \$15 million increase over last year.

Magnet schools that require application fees in their admission processes would be prohibited from receiving awards.

The federal awards could support certain elements of Connecticut’s Sheff settlement, which is pending final court approval.

The agreement provides more than \$14 million of state dollars to improve extracurricular and athletic programs at magnet schools in an effort to increase their appeal to a diverse range of students, and \$48.7 million for magnet school renovations.

Federal dollars only account for a small portion of Connecticut’s education

spending overall, but state money has flowed into developing the magnet school network in recent decades.

Connecticut has 86 magnet schools, which educate nearly 40,000 students in grades Pre-K through 12, and 3.5 million students attend magnet schools nationwide.

Gov. Ned Lamont’s recommended budget adjustments for fiscal year 2023 includes \$289 million for magnet schools, an increase of \$4.4 million from what was previously appropriated.

The MAGNET Act has earned endorsements from two major national teachers unions, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Associa-

tion, as well as Connecticut’s Capitol Region Education Council and other education equity groups.

U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, an original co-sponsor of the bill that was also introduced by U.S. Senator Cory Booker, D-N.J., said “too many children are educated in schools with limited educational opportunities.”

“The MAGNET Act helps to reduce these disparities and provides schools with the federal support needed to close the gap for our most vulnerable students and make education truly equitable for all,” Hayes said.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Stadium

from Page 1

sponsor of the Hartford Athletic since the team was founded, with its name and logo appearing on players’ jerseys. The health system has also provided medical care to the team’s players.

“Trinity Health Stadium will continue to provide a family-friendly place for us to come together in a positive way,” Dr. Reggy Eadie, Trinity Health of New England’s CEO, said Thursday. “We’re excited to be a part of something that continues to breath new life and vitality into our community.”

Dillon Stadium has been home to the Hartford Athletic since the team’s founding in 2019, which coincided with \$14 million in renovations for the venue. It also hosts high school, college and international soccer games, as well as community events.

Initially built in the 1930s, the building has been known as Dillon Stadium since 1956. It is currently named after James H. Dillon, who worked nearly 40 years as Hartford’s recreation director.

Mandell said the team will commemorate Dillon within



A rendering shows signage outside an entrance to Trinity Health Stadium. CONTRIBUTED

the stadium “in really cool ways,” but he is not ready to announce how. He said selling the sponsorship rights to the building was a necessary next step for Hartford Athletic.

“As we’re growing as a community, it’s important that we’re able to support that growth,” Mandell said. “To do that, having sponsors

like Trinity Health of New England is very important so we can bring pro soccer and we can have community events.”

After decades under the Dillon Stadium name, not everyone was ready to see a change. On social media, locals complained that the team was trading history for corporate money and said

they will always think of the building as Dillon Stadium.

Bridgitte Prince, a Hartford native and veterans rights activist who attended Thursday’s press conference, said she’d like to see the Dillon Stadium name remain and for sponsorship dollars to go toward other causes in the city.

“They said they’re going

to honor Dillon Stadium, we’re going to preserve his name, but if that’s the case why are you putting Trinity Health on there?” Prince said. “It just takes away from the historical factor of the city.”

Bronin said he views the new named deal as good news for Hartford, noting that Dillon Stadium had

been “derelict” before the Hartford Athletic arrived and the building was renovated.

“Together we were able to bring it back and make it a center of community again,” Bronin said. “A center of community gathering to watch some great soccer games, a center of community where kids can come out to learn some skills or just have fun, where a community can reserve the field and use it for their uses.”

Jay Williams, president of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, which helped fund the Dillon Stadium renovations, said Thursday the stadium helps “attract families and young people not only from the city of Hartford but from across the region” and “promote health, camaraderie and friendliness.”

“We are now excited that we are emerging [from the pandemic] and that this will be a place we can gather once again,” he said.

The Hartford Athletic are set to begin their season Saturday and will play their first home game April 2 at 7 p.m.

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LOTTERY

Thursday, March 17

PLAY3 DAY

8 6 7 WB: 2

PLAY4 DAY

7 2 3 1 WB: 5

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

6 1 4 WB: 3

PLAY4 NIGHT

8 3 7 2 WB: 6

CASH 5

4 8 11 30 31

LUCKY FOR LIFE

2 3 6 33 46 LB: 12

POWERBALL

3 28 34 34 58 PB: 17 PP: 2

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.4 million

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$29 million

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$147 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

ANALYSIS

Xi sees 1 victor from war in Ukraine: China

By Steven Lee Myers and Chris Buckley
The New York Times

The war in Ukraine is far from over, but a consensus is forming in Chinese policy circles that one country stands to emerge victorious from the turmoil: China.

After a confused initial response to Russia's invasion, China has laid the building blocks of a strategy to shield itself from the worst economic and diplomatic consequences it could face, and to benefit from geopolitical shifts when the smoke clears.

China's leader, Xi Jinping, has avoided criticizing President Vladimir Putin of Russia, but he has also tried to distance China from the carnage. His government has denounced the international sanctions imposed on Russia but, so far at least, has hinted that Chinese companies may comply with them, to protect China's economic interests in the West.

Xi reached out to European leaders last week with vague offers of assistance in negotiating a settlement, even as other Chinese officials amplified Russian disinformation campaigns meant to discredit the United States and NATO.

On Monday, President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, met with a top Chinese official in Rome, and warned that the United States had "deep concerns" about Beijing's



China's Xi Jinping has avoided criticizing Russia's Vladimir Putin. **ALEXEI DRUZHININ/SPUTNIK**

growing alignment with Russia.

In the end, China's leadership has calculated that it must try to rise above what it considers a struggle between two tired powers and be seen as a pillar of stability in an increasingly turbulent world.

"This means that as long as we don't commit terminal strategic blunders, China's modernization will not be cut short, and on the contrary, China will have even greater ability and will to play a more important role in building a new international order," Zheng Yongnian, a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, who has advised senior officials, wrote after the invasion in a widely circulated article.

At the heart of China's strategy lies a conviction that the United States is weakened from reckless foreign

adventures, including, from Beijing's perspective, goading Putin into the Ukraine conflict.

In this view, which in recent days has been echoed in public statements and quasi-official analyses, Russia's invasion has dragged American power and attention toward Europe, making it likely that Biden, like his recent predecessors, will try but fail to put more focus on China and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

"All the difficulties and all the balancing and all the embarrassment that we're talking about, those are short-term," said Yun Sun, the director of the China Program at the Stimson Center in Washington, who has studied Beijing's actions in the lead-up to the war. "In the long run, Russia is going to be the pariah of the international community, and Russia will have no one to turn to but China."

China's path ahead is by no means certain.

Drawing too close to Russia would risk entrenching animosity toward China in Europe and beyond, a possibility that worries Xi's government, for all its bluster.

If Germany, France and other allies build up their defenses as promised, the United States could ultimately be freed up to shift more of its military resources toward countering China. Biden has vowed to rally an "alliance of democracies,"

while American military leaders say they will not let Ukraine distract them from China.

"We also feel very, very anxious because the Russia-Ukraine war will force Europe to lean to the U.S., and then China will be dragged deeper into a dilemma," said Zhu Feng, a professor of international relations at Nanjing University. The United States' allies in the Pacific, including Japan and Australia, "will also adopt a stronger military posture. So it all seems unfriendly to China."

Sullivan's meeting in Rome with a top Chinese foreign affairs official, Yang Jiechi, came amid reports that Russia has asked China to give it military equipment and support for its war in Ukraine, as well as economic assistance to help counteract the sanctions imposed after the invasion. China has denied those reports.

China's initial stumbles after the Russian invasion have raised questions about Xi's ability to navigate the war's aftershocks.

He has repeatedly warned Chinese officials that the world is entering an era of upheaval "the likes of which have not been seen for a century." Yet those officials seemed ill-prepared for the upheaval of Putin's assault on Ukraine.

Up to the day of the invasion, they scoffed at warnings that Russia was poised for war, instead accusing

the United States of stoking tensions. Since then, they have struggled to reconcile sympathy for Putin's security grievances with their often-stated reverence for the principle of national sovereignty, including Ukraine's.

Xi, in a video conference with President Emmanuel Macron of France and Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, lamented "the rekindling of the flames of war" in Europe. Yet his diplomats have fanned the flames of Russian disinformation, accusing the United States of developing biological weapons in Ukraine.

"This is just not good for China's international reputation," said Bobo Lo, an expert on China-Russia ties at the French Institute of International Relations. "It's not just China's reputation in the West; I think it also affects China's reputation in the non-West, because it's essentially associating itself with an imperial power."

China could also face economic disruptions from the war and the Western efforts to punish Russia by restricting trade and cutting off its financial institutions. Chinese officials have denounced such measures, and while the United States and its allies have shown remarkable unity in imposing them, other countries share Beijing's reservations about using powerful economic tools as weapons.

In any case, China's economy is large enough to absorb

blows that would cripple others. Chinese companies may even end up well positioned to take advantage of Russia's desperate need for trade, as happened when Moscow faced sanctions over the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Arguing that the era of American dominance after the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 was a historical anomaly, both Xi and Putin have embraced geopolitical doctrines that call for their countries to reclaim their status as great powers.

Just as Putin depicts the United States as menacing Russia on its western frontier, Xi sees U.S. support for Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that Beijing claims as its own, as a similar threat off China's coast.

As it turns to Beijing for support against Western sanctions, Russia will become increasingly beholden to China as its diplomatic and economic lifeline, while serving as its strategic geopolitical ballast, analysts say.

"The old order is swiftly disintegrating, and strongman politics is again ascendant among the world's great powers," wrote Zheng of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. "Countries are brimming with ambition, like tigers eyeing their prey, keen to find every opportunity among the ruins of the old order."

Ukraine

from Page 1

"We hope and we think that some people who stayed in the shelter under the theater could survive," said Petro Andrushchenko, an official with the mayor's office. He said the building had a relatively modern basement bomb shelter designed to withstand airstrikes.

Other officials had said earlier that some people had gotten out. Ukraine's ombudswoman, Ludmyla Denisova, said on the Telegram messaging app that the shelter had held up.

Satellite imagery on Monday from Maxar Technologies showed huge white letters on the pavement in front of and behind the theater spelling out "CHILDREN" in Russian — "DETI" — to alert warplanes to those inside.

Russia's military denied bombing the theater or anyplace else in Mariupol on Wednesday.

The strike against the theater was part of a furious bombardment of civilian sites in multiple cities over the past few days.



Smoke rises after an explosion as the sun sets in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. **FELIPE DANA/AP**

In the northern city of Chernihiv, at least 53 people had been brought to morgues over the past 24 hours, killed amid heavy Russian air attacks and ground fire, the local governor, Viacheslav Chaus, told Ukrainian TV on Thursday.

Ukraine's emergency services said a mother, father and three of their children, including 3-year-old twins, were killed when a Chernihiv hostel was shelled.

The dead also included an American man who was in Cherniv seeking medical treatment for his partner, his sister said.

"My brother Jimmy Hill was ... was waiting in a

bread line with several other people when they were gunned down" by Russian military forces, his sister, Cheryl Hill Gordon, wrote Thursday on Facebook.

Ukrainian officials reported that 10 people were killed Wednesday in Chernihiv while standing in the bread line.

Chernihiv police and the U.S. State Department confirmed the death of an American but did not identify him.

At least 21 people were killed when Russian artillery destroyed a school and a community center before dawn in Meref, near the

northeast city of Kharkiv, according to Mayor Veniamin Sitov. The region has seen heavy bombardment in a bid by stalled Russian forces to advance.

In eastern Ukraine, a municipal pool complex where pregnant women and women with children were taking shelter was also hit Wednesday, according to Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk regional administration.

There was no word on casualties in that strike.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for more help for his country in a video address to German

lawmakers, saying thousands of people have been killed, including 108 children. He also referred to the dire situation in Mariupol, saying: "Everything is a target for them."

Zelenskyy's office said Russian airstrikes hit the Kalynivka and Brovary suburbs of the capital, Kyiv. Emergency authorities in Kyiv said a fire broke out in a 16-story apartment building hit by remnants of a downed Russian rocket, and one person was killed.

The U.N. Security Council planned to meet Thursday on the crisis.

Russian President Vlad-

imir Putin went on television Wednesday to excoriate Russians who don't back him.

Russians "will always be able to distinguish true patriots from scum and traitors and will simply spit them out like a gnat that accidentally flew into their mouths," said Putin, using language reminiscent of the Stalinist era. "I am convinced that such a natural and necessary self-purification of society will only strengthen our country."

He said the West is using a "fifth column" of traitorous Russians to create civil unrest. "And there is only

one goal, I have already spoken about it — the destruction of Russia," he said.

Both Ukraine and Russia this week reported some progress in negotiations. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Thursday that some negotiators were breaking into working groups, "but there should be contacts today."

An official in Zelenskyy's office said the main subject under discussion was whether Russian troops would remain in separatist regions in eastern Ukraine after the war and where the borders would be.

Virus

from Page 1

shown up in state numbers.

Last week, Yale School of Public Health researcher Nathan Grubaugh reported that BA.2 may already account for nearly half of Connecticut's new COVID-19 cases.

"It seems like proportionally, the BA.2 subvariant is increasing," said Dr. David Banach, hospital epidemiologist at UConn Health. "The question is whether that's going to lead to an overall number of increased cases, and I think it's still a little unclear at this point whether that will happen

here in Connecticut."

First discovered in November, BA.2 is believed to be more infectious than the original omicron variant, though likely not infectious enough to cause a full-scale surge of infections. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, BA.2 currently accounts for nearly a quarter of cases nationwide.

Dr. Manisha Juthani, Connecticut's public health commissioner, said she was "hopeful" BA.2 would not cause a significant uptick in Connecticut, noting that the United Kingdom has seen a spike in cases but not as dire an increase in hospitalizations.

"They're not seeing a huge overwhelming burden on our healthcare system," said Juthani, an infectious disease expert. "If that turns out to be the case, maybe we'll be OK."

Still, Juthani said, the BA.2 variant requires vigilance.

"This is something we're watching very carefully," she said.

The good news, experts say, is that prior infection from the omicron variant seems to confer significant immunity against BA.2. With most Connecticut residents vaccinated and tens of thousands of them having survived an omicron infection just a few months ago,

BA.2 might have a hard time taking hold.

Meanwhile, warmer weather in the coming months will mean people can gather outdoors, where COVID-19 spread is less of a worry.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, said BA.2 might already be affecting Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers, which have improved at a relatively slow rate in recent weeks. He said the state is likely due for an uptick like the one currently hitting Europe but that he doesn't anticipate anything close to the wave the state endured earlier this winter.

"We're not going to see a

surge," Wu said. "I think we can predict that."

The spread of BA.2 comes at a time when Connecticut has lifted nearly all pandemic control measures. As of this month, no Connecticut town or city requires masks in public, indoor places, and few still mandate them in schools. In many places, restaurants and bars are every bit as packed as before the pandemic.

Wu said the relative lack of masking and social distancing could leave the state vulnerable as BA.2 spreads.

"People have thrown caution to the wind at this point," Wu said. "You walk around and nobody cares at this point."

Juthani urged all Connecticut residents who haven't gotten vaccine booster shots to do so immediately so they're better protected as cases potentially begin to increase. She said masking may also become more necessary as BA.2 spreads.

"It never hurts to put your mask back on," Juthani said. "I keep mine in my purse and decide whether I'm going to wear it or not."

Courant staff writer Eliza Fawcett contributed to this report.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russian troop morale down, US says

Intel estimates 7,000 soldiers killed in just 3 weeks of fighting

By Helene Cooper, Julian E. Barnes and Eric Schmitt
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — In 36 days of fighting on Iwo Jima during World War II, nearly 7,000 Marines were killed. Now, 20 days after President Vladimir Putin of Russia invaded Ukraine, his military has already lost more soldiers, according to U.S. intelligence estimates. The conservative side of the estimate, at more than 7,000 Russian troop deaths, is greater than the number of U.S. troops killed over 20 years in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. It is a staggering number amassed in just three weeks of fighting, U.S. officials say, with implications for the combat effectiveness of Russian units, including soldiers in tank formations. Pentagon officials say a 10% casualty rate, including dead and wounded, for a single unit renders it unable to carry out combat-related tasks. With more than 150,000 Russian troops involved in the war in Ukraine, Russian casualties, when including the estimated 14,000 to 21,000 injured, are near that level. And the Russian military has lost at least three generals in the fight, according to Ukrainian, NATO and Russian officials. Pentagon officials say that a high, and rising, number of war dead can destroy the will to continue fighting. The result, they say, has



Ukrainian resistance has surprised Russian forces. Above, a Ukrainian patrol in Kyiv. LYNSEY ADDARIO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

shown up in intelligence reports that senior officials in the Biden administration read every day: One recent report focused on low morale among Russian troops and described soldiers just parking their vehicles and walking off into the woods. The U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, caution that their numbers of Russian troop deaths are inexact, compiled through analysis of the news media, Ukrainian figures (which tend to be high, with the latest at 13,500), Russian figures (which tend to be low, with the latest at 498),

satellite imagery and careful perusal of video images of Russian tanks and troops that come under fire. U.S. military and intelligence officials know, for instance, how many troops are usually in a tank, and can extrapolate from that the number of casualties when an armored vehicle is hit by, say, a Javelin anti-tank missile. The high rate of casualties goes far to explain why Russian troops have remained largely stalled outside of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. "Losses like this affect morale and unit cohesion, especially since these

soldiers don't understand why they're fighting," said Evelyn Farkas, the top Pentagon official for Russia and Ukraine during the Obama administration. "Your overall situational awareness decreases. Someone's got to drive, someone's got to shoot." With Russian ground forces in disarray, Putin has increasingly looked to the skies to attack Ukrainian cities, residential buildings, hospitals and even schools. That aerial bombardment, officials say, has helped camouflage the Russian military's poor performance on the ground. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

of Ukraine said this week that an estimated 1,300 Ukrainian soldiers had been killed in the war. Signs of Russia's challenges abound. Late last week, Russian news sources reported that Putin had put two of his top intelligence officials under house arrest. The officials, who run the Fifth Service of Russia's main intelligence service, the FSB, were interrogated for providing poor intelligence before the invasion, according to Andrei Soldatov, a Russian security services expert. "They told Putin what he wanted to hear" about how the invasion would progress,

Soldatov said. Russians may be hearing only what Putin wants them to hear about his "operation" in Ukraine, which he refuses to call a war or an invasion. Since it began, he has exerted iron control over the news outlets in Russia; state media is not publicizing most casualties and has minimized the destruction. But some Russians have access to virtual private networks, or VPNs, and are able to get news from the West. The news of the generals' deaths is trickling out, first from Ukrainians, then confirmed by NATO officials, with one death acknowledged by Putin in a speech. Two U.S. military officials said many Russian generals are talking on unsecured phones and radios. In at least one instance, they said, the Ukrainians intercepted a general's call, geolocated it and attacked his location, killing him and his staff. If Russian military deaths continue to rise, the kinds of civic organizations that called attention to troop deaths and injuries during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan could once more come to prominence. "It is stunning, and the Russians haven't even gotten to the worst of it, when they hit urban combat in the cities," said Rep. Jason Crow, D-Colo., a member of the House Armed Services and Intelligence committees. "I don't think it'll have an impact on Putin's calculus," Crow said. "He is not willing to lose. He's been backed into a corner and will continue to throw troops at the problem."

Russia's invasion snarls Biden's 'pivot' to China

White House keeps tabs on whether Xi decides to aid Putin

By Aamer Madhani and Chris Megerian
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden set out to finally complete the "pivot to Asia," a long-sought adjustment of U.S. foreign policy to better reflect the rise of America's most significant military and economic competitor: China. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has made that vexing move even more complicated. China's government has vacillated between full embrace and more measured responses as Russian President Vladimir Putin prosecutes his war, making the decisions for Biden more layered. Biden and China's Xi Jinping are scheduled to speak by phone Friday, a conversation that the White House says will center on "managing the competition between our two countries as well as Russia's war against Ukraine and other issues of mutual concern." The Biden administration is left needing to focus east and west at the same time, balancing not simply

economic imperatives but military ones as well. "It's difficult. It's expensive," Kurt Campbell, the coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the White House National Security Council, said during a recent forum of maintaining a high-level U.S. focus in two regions. "But it's also essential, and I believe we're entering a period where that's what will be required of the United States and of this generation of Americans." Biden has been invested in rallying NATO and Western allies to respond to Russia with crippling sanctions, supplying an overmatched Ukraine military with \$2 billion in military assistance — including \$800 million in new aid — and addressing a growing humanitarian crisis. Eastern flank NATO allies, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, have made clear to the Biden administration that they want the U.S. to increase its military presence in the region and do more to address the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II. More than 3 million Ukrainian refugees have fled their country in recent weeks. Though the war has domi-

nated Biden's focus, White House officials insist they haven't lost sight of China — and are watching to see how Xi decides to play his hand. In recent months, Biden has announced the sale of nuclear submarines to Australia and raised the profile of the Indo-Pacific security dialogue known as the Quad — Australia, India, Japan and the United States. He's also called out China for military provocations against Taiwan, human rights abuses against ethnic minorities and efforts to squelch pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong. Biden's national security team was somewhat surprised that Pacific partners — Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea — moved so quickly to hit Russia with sanctions following the invasion, according to a U.S. official familiar with the administration's thinking. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there was a recognition among the Pacific allies that Beijing is watching how the world responds to Russia as China calculates how aggressive it can be with its smaller neighbors in the region. In backing sanctions, the Pacific nations were trying



President Biden and China's Xi Jinping are scheduled to talk Friday, a conversation the White House says will touch on the war in Ukraine and other issues. DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

to send a message to Xi and Putin, the official added. From the first days of his presidency, Biden has said the aims of his China policy are to find ways to cooperate with Beijing on issues of mutual interest — such as stopping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and coaxing Tehran to return to the Iran nuclear deal with the U.S., China, Russia and other world powers — and to avoid confrontation. To that end, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan and senior

Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi met this week for a seven-hour talk about the Russian invasion and other issues. They spent part of their time together discussing North Korea's recent intercontinental missile tests. Still, Beijing's approach to the Russian invasion is causing Washington concern. The White House has made clear to Beijing that throwing a lifeline to Russia's collapsing economy or assisting its bruised military would be hazardous to a country that sees itself as the

next great world power. The White House has not specified what actions it would take should China assist Russia. But China has its own internal troubles, including an economic slowdown, difficulties that sanctions against Russia could make worse. "The Ukraine war has proceeded in ways China did not expect and the war is not conducive to China's rise or development," said Xiong Zhiyong, professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University.



U.K. volunteers give away toys and stuffed animals to refugees Thursday in Zahony, Hungary. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY

Agencies rushing in aid as refugee crisis grows

By Florent Bajrami
Associated Press

RZESZOW, Poland — As Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on, aid agencies continue to ramp up their efforts to bring relief supplies to civilians affected by the fighting, and also to over 3.2 million refugees who have fled the country since the conflict began. Rzeszow, the largest city in southeastern Poland, roughly 60 miles from the Ukrainian border, has

become a humanitarian aid hub. By road and by air, supplies — including food, blankets and warm clothing — continue to arrive in a warehouse run by the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. "What we have been doing is bringing more people into the country, bringing more assistance into the country, working with partners to make sure that we can work effectively, to do what we can to help," said Matthew Saltmarsh,

UNHCR spokesman. Saltmarsh said the agency has received in the past month "over 300 million lots of donations" from the private sector and has delivered some of the relief supplies to Ukraine. The UNCHR has moved 22 trucks and soon plans to move another 10 with emergency supplies to the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, not far from the Polish border. Lviv has largely been spared the scale of destruction unfolding further east,

becoming the first destination for many of those fleeing the country. Some of the aid transported to the city has been unloaded and distributed there, Saltmarsh said, but the rest is waiting to go on when the security situation allows humanitarian assistance to reach the hardest-hit parts of the country, including the port city of Mariupol, which has been besieged and subjected to Russian attacks almost since the start of the war.

WORLD & NATION



People hug before boarding an evacuation train from Odesa, Ukraine. For now, online diarist Wang Jixian is staying in the city. TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Chinese vlogger, alone in Ukraine, challenges homeland’s narratives

By Stephanie Yang
Los Angeles Times

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Five days after Russia invaded Ukraine, Wang Jixian sat down in front of his phone camera, fresh-shaven and sporting a small Chinese flag on his shirt, to record his final words.

“Good morning. I just got up. It’s March 1, spring has arrived,” he begins, panning his phone to show snow blanketing the ground. “I am in Odesa, Ukraine. Right now it’s 10 in the morning. It’s snowed a lot. We are still alive.”

Two weeks later, he’s still recording.

The 37-year-old programmer, familiar with Ukraine from work trips over the years, had just moved to the southern port city of Odesa in December. As others fled or evacuated in recent weeks, he couldn’t quite bring himself to leave his new home. He figured if he died, it would be with dignity and without regrets.

Instead, Wang’s continuing video diaries have turned him into an internet sensation, as both a rare voice of Chinese solidarity with Ukraine and a lightning rod for the nationalistic, pro-Russia sentiment dominating China’s web.

His dispatches started Feb. 25, the day after Russia attacked. Wang uploaded a short video of himself shopping for food to let friends and family in China know that he was alive and well. Then came the flood of messages wishing him dead.

Chinese viewers, skeptical that Russia had invaded, accused him of treason, of terrorism, of taking U.S. money to act out and spread nefarious lies. On WeChat, the Chinese social messaging app where Wang first posted his videos, they called for his death, or offered to kill him themselves.

The response, driven by a nationalist fervor that venerates Russian leader Vladimir Putin and despises the West, is in part reflective of China’s unique positioning in the war. Chinese officials have called for peace but refused to label the attack an “invasion.” State media amplifies Russian propaganda and blames the U.S. for inciting conflict. On social media, posts opposing the war, Russia or Putin are censored.

For Wang, who is from Beijing, it has felt like watching two battles unfold. One plays out in air raid sirens and missiles outside his window, the other in frequent attacks and threats on his phone. He is an unwitting enemy in both, but says he is afraid of neither.

“If they curse me, I can’t stop them,” he said in a phone interview squeezed between spates of verbal abuse. “If they come here

to kill me, I can’t stop them either.”

Initially, Wang was taken aback by the vitriol. He hadn’t considered his content to be extreme or political, just a documentation of what life looked like from Ukraine and a call for peace. After the first video, he continued to post, trying to show the rest of the world what he saw every day.

“You don’t have to comment, just save it in your phone,” he asks viewers in one video. “Someday, when I’m gone, at least people will know we lived. We are not frightened. We are trying to live like people. We will die standing.”

His videos show glimpses of that life. Some days he records the view from his window, silent but for the sound of air raid sirens or blowing wind. Other reels feature activity from the street: trips to the grocery store, a fresh haircut, neighbors walking their dogs or cats wandering around his neighborhood.

When talking to the camera, he’s often upbeat and unassuming, assuring viewers that he is safe and thanking them for their words and care. He’ll smile, joke and talk briefly about what’s happening in Ukraine. But he is also in turns morose, lamenting the daily air raids and wishing for an end to the war.

Sometimes he refutes accusations and rumors about himself. Onscreen, he proclaims his love for China, angling his phone camera with one hand and holding up his passport in the other. He doesn’t oppose the Chinese Communist Party, though he knows his updates from Ukraine don’t align with its propaganda. He doesn’t begrudge his harassers, or the Russian soldiers, or WeChat for temporarily blocking his posts.

His anger is most palpable when responding to pro-war remarks. In one video, he dares those sending hateful messages to come to Ukraine and see it for themselves.

If they want to kill him still, they can pick up a knife or gun and do it with their own hands, he says. If not, he will make them dumplings for dinner.

“If I go back, who am I? Am I still Chinese? Or an enemy?” he asks the camera. “Who are we? Traitors? Terrorists? We don’t want to die, we don’t want our wives to die, we don’t want our homes bombed, is this wrong?”

By now Wang has gotten used to the onslaught of voice and text messages, comments and spontaneous calls to curse him and threaten his life. What’s been equally surprising, he said, is the amount of kindness and well wishes he

has received too. He tries to respond to everyone who reaches out but has more than 3,000 WeChat messages still to work through. The comments on his videos arrive faster than he can read them.

It’s a lot, he says, but heartwarming.

He’s still unsure how it all happened, who was first to share his videos and how it snowballed from there. Before the war, he had 36 subscribers on YouTube, where he has also started posting daily. Now he has nearly 50,000.

As his videos have racked up hundreds of thousands of views, Wang said he’s glad to express sympathy and support for Ukrainians, a less than common viewpoint on China’s heavily managed internet.

Still, pockets of dissent have been captured and disseminated before they disappear: photos of lone protesters holding anti-war signs on the streets of China, an open letter from university professors opposing Russia’s invasion, social media posts from celebrities calling for peace.

Amid the surge of pro-Russia voices, and subsequent fears they could endanger Chinese citizens still in Ukraine, internet censors also started scrubbing pro-war or anti-Ukrainian comments that are deemed too extreme.

“If I don’t speak up, everyone, Ukrainians will think all Chinese have this view. So I’m saying something different, to tell them there are Chinese people who want to help you, who donate money, who support you,” Wang said. In the comments on his videos, viewers leave their own messages of encouragement for him and Ukraine.

Wang said his goals change depending on the day. Some days he simply reports his safety, other times he wants to refute fake reports about what’s happening in the war. He hopes he can maybe change someone’s mind about the war, by posing questions in his video, or sharing what he has seen. The money people send him he returns, asking them to donate it to the National Bank of Ukraine instead.

For now, he plans to keep posting until the war is over. Back in Beijing, his parents have asked him to stop, worried that he’s making trouble for himself. He knows it’s hard for them to understand why he continues on the way he does. For the most part, though, he’s satisfied with what has been said.

“As of today, I feel I’ve pretty much completed what history requires from a nobody like me,” he said. “Hopefully history’s next steps don’t need me.”

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Americans can finally grow hair so thick “It will cover up your bald spots,” says top US Doctor

Clinical trials show a new hair loss breakthrough can both help men and women naturally regrow a thick, full head of hair – without drugs, surgery, or side effects

Thousands are rushing to get a new hair restoration method based on surprising new studies from the University of California.

It is the world’s first and only hair loss solution that revives dead hair follicles. And studies confirm it helps men and women regrow a thick, full head of hair, even after years of balding.

Now, with news of this breakthrough spreading like wildfire — the manufacturers are struggling to keep up with overwhelming demand.

That’s because, unlike other methods, it is prescription-free, drug-free, and has no side effects. And while hair transplants can cost \$4,000 or more, this new approach costs pennies on the dollar and doesn’t involve going to the doctor’s office.

Instead, it leverages cutting-edge technology to prevent hair loss, fill-in embarrassing bald spots, and renourish thinning hair — with results you can see and feel in 30 days or less.

As Jeanne F. from San Diego, CA reports: “When my husband began to use this product, all he had on top of his head was fuzz. His hair began to grow after 30 days and now it is about 2 to 3 inches long!”

Surprising Truth About Hair Loss

It is commonly believed that hair loss is hereditary.

Unfortunately, most people think there is nothing they can do to stop it. However, while many doctors will tell you that thinning hair, a receding hairline, and bald spots are due to your genetics, this is not the whole story.

“While genetics play a role, it’s not the main reason you lose hair,” says Dr. Al Sears, the nation’s top anti-aging doctor. “And surprisingly it’s not just your age, thyroid, hormones, stress, or a vitamin deficiency, either.”

The latest scientific research reveals that hair loss is primarily caused by the stem cells in your hair follicles dying.

“This discovery is a true breakthrough because by reviving these stem cells on your scalp, you can stop hair loss dead in its tracks and trigger new hair growth, even in areas that have been thinning for years,” explains Dr. Sears.

Now, at his world-famous clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida, Dr. Sears and his team have used this game-changing discovery to develop a brand-new hair restoration formula that is taking the country by storm.

Sold under the name *Re-Nourish*, it is flying off the shelves with men and women of all ages raving about the results it delivers.



“I have seen a significant improvement in hair growth. Previously, you could see thinning areas at the back of my head and now hair has grown over it,” says Peter W. from Ontario, Canada.

And Susan D. from Fort Pierce, Florida reports, “My hair was thinning. So, I began to use Re-Nourish every day on the front part of my scalp. Now I have thicker hair.”

Regrows Hair In Just 30 Days

Scientists now know that stem cells are the lifeblood of your hair follicles.

Research from the University of California shows they’re the reason you’re able to grow hair. However, these stem cells aren’t always active. In fact, studies reveal they’re only active during certain phases of the hair growth cycle.

“Your hair grows in three phases,” explains Dr. Sears. “First, you have the ana-



Breakthrough research proves this discovery helps fill-in bald spots, re-nourishes thinning hair, and leads to noticeable growth in as little as 30 days.

phase cycle. The results? Your hairs get stuck in the telogen phase. This is when they start falling out and stop regrowing, no matter what you try.

This process doesn’t happen overnight, says Dr. Sears.

“At first, your hair dries out, becoming brittle, thin, and harder to style. Then, you start finding hairs on your pillow and down the drain. Finally, you’re left with bald spots that age you prematurely.”

Fortunately, Re-Nourish puts a stop to this. It revives the dead stem cells in your hair follicles and reactivates your hair’s three-phase cycle, triggering new growth in as little as 30 days — even in areas that’ve been balding for years.

Reawakens Dead Hair Follicles

For years, scientists couldn’t figure out why hair follicle stem cells died.

However, a study from the University of California finally found the answer.,

It has to do with T-cells — an important immune cell in your body. The researchers discovered these T-cells are the only way to command hair follicles to grow new hair.

More importantly, they showed that T-cells helped revive the stem cells in your hair follicles — spurring new growth, filling in bald spots and natural hairline.

Re-Nourish uses a unique blend of all-natural ingredients. By spraying it on your hair once per day, scientific studies show you can revive dead stem cells and improve the appearance of thicker, fuller hair.

For example, the key nutrient of *Re-Nourish* was tested on a group of severely balding women.

After 6 months, nearly 70% of the women saw significant improvement in hair growth. Their hair was noticeably fuller, thicker, and healthier looking. Most exciting of all, they grew new hair on parts of their scalp that had been bald for years.

In another study, Italian researchers gathered a group of both men and women with thinning hair and applied the core ingredient of *Re-Nourish*. After 12 weeks, they reported a staggering 74% increase in hair growth.

“It’s really mind-boggling that my hair started growing back,” says Zan R., another Re-Nourish customer.

With results like this, it’s no surprise that demand for *Re-Nourish* is soaring. Thousands of men and women are scrambling to get their hands on the limited-supply available.

Re-Nourish is not currently available in any store at any price. But we’ve secured a small batch for our readers.

Try Re-Nourish 100% Risk-Free

For the next 48-hours, Dr. Sears is offering readers a risk-free trial of *Re-Nourish*.

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product that he is backing every order with a risk-free, 100% money-back guarantee. To take advantage of this special offer, simply call the Sears Toll-Free Health Hotline at **1-800-957-9585** now. Use Promo Code **NP0322RN98** when you call in.

[EDITOR’S NOTE]: Due to recent media exposure for *Re-Nourish*, the **Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine** is experiencing unprecedented demand. If the phone line is busy when you call, please try again to avoid missing this special one-time-only offer.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY.

WORLD & NATION

Getting to the root of saving Earth

Worldwide boom in planting trees can hurt as well as help

By Catrin Einhorn
The New York Times

A tree planted for every T-shirt purchased or swipe of a credit card. Trees planted by countries to meet global pledges and by companies to bolster their sustainability records.

As the climate crisis deepens, businesses and consumers are joining nonprofit groups and governments in a global tree planting boom. Last year saw billions of trees planted around the world. These efforts can be a triple win, providing livelihoods, absorbing and locking away planet-warming carbon dioxide, and improving ecosystems.

But when done poorly, the projects can worsen the problems they were meant to solve. Planting the wrong trees in the wrong place can reduce biodiversity, speeding extinctions and making ecosystems far less resilient.

Addressing biodiversity loss, already a global crisis akin to climate change, is becoming more urgent. An estimated 1 million species are at risk of disappearing, many within decades. And ecosystem collapse also imperils the food and water supplies that humans rely on.

Amid that, companies and countries are increasingly investing in tree planting that carpets large areas with commercial, nonnative species in the name of fighting climate change. These trees sock away carbon but provide little support to the webs of life that once thrived in those areas.

“You’re creating basically a sterile landscape,” said Paul Smith, who runs Botanic Gardens Conservation International, an umbrella group that works to prevent plant extinctions.

There’s a rule of thumb in the tree-planting world:



Members of the California Conservation Corps plant trees in Modesto, California. JOSH HANER/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2018

One should plant “the right tree in the right place.” Some add, “for the right reason.”

But, according to interviews with scientists, policy experts, forestry companies and tree planting organizations, people often disagree on what’s “right.” For some, it’s big tree farms for carbon storage and timber. For others, it’s providing fruit trees to small-scale farmers. For others still, it’s allowing native species to regenerate.

“It’s kind of the Wild West,” said Forrest Fleischman, a professor of environmental policy at the University of Minnesota.

There is not enough land on Earth to tackle climate change with trees alone, but if paired with drastic cuts in fossil fuels, trees can be an important natural solution. They absorb carbon dioxide through their leaves and stash it away in their branches and trunks (though trees also release carbon when they burn or rot). That ability to collect

that gas is why forests are often called carbon sinks.

In Central Africa, TotalEnergies, the French oil and gas giant, has announced plans to plant trees on nearly 100,000 acres in the Republic of Congo. The project on the Bateke Plateau would sequester more than 10 million tons of carbon dioxide over 20 years, according to the company.

“Total is committing to the development of natural carbon sinks in Africa,” said Nicolas Terraz, who was then Total’s senior vice president for Africa, exploration and production, in a company news release on the project in 2021. On the Bateke Plateau, an acacia species from Australia, intended for selective logging, will cover a large area.

The project, part of a Congolese government program to expand forest cover and increase carbon storage, would create jobs,

the company said, and ultimately broaden the ecosystem’s biodiversity as local species are allowed to grow in over decades.

But scientists warn that the plan may be an example of one of the worst kinds of forestation efforts: planting trees where they would not naturally occur. These projects can devastate biodiversity, threaten water supplies and even increase temperatures because, in some cases, trees absorb heat that grasslands — or, in other parts of the world, snow — would have reflected.

“We don’t want to cause harm in the name of doing good,” said Bethanie Walder, executive director of the Society for Ecological Restoration, a global nonprofit.

Those who study forest restoration emphasize that trees are not a cure-all.

“I fear that many corporations and governments are seeing this as an easy way out,” said Robin Chazdon, a professor of tropical forest restoration at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia. “They don’t necessarily have to work as hard to reduce their emissions because they can just say, ‘Oh, we’re offsetting that by planting trees.’”

Experts acknowledge that forest restoration and carbon sequestration are complex, and that commercial species have a role to play. People need timber, a renewable product with a lower carbon footprint than concrete or steel. They need paper and fuel for cooking.

Planting fast-growing species for harvest can sometimes help preserve surrounding native forests. And, by strategically adding native species, tree farms can help biodiversity by creating wildlife corridors to link disconnected habitat areas.

“This restoration movement can’t happen without the private sector,” said Michael Becker, head of communications at It.org, a group created by the World Economic Forum to push for the conservation and growth of 1 trillion trees with help from private investment. “Historically, there have been bad actors, but we need to bring them into the fold and doing the right thing.”

When businesses promise to plant a tree for every purchase of a given product, they typically do so via nonprofit groups. The support may reforest after wildfires or provide fruit and nut trees to farmers. But even these projects can compromise biodiversity.

The planet is home to nearly 60,000 tree species. A third are threatened with extinction, mainly from agriculture, grazing and exploitation. But globally, only a tiny fraction of species are widely planted, according to tree-planting groups and scientists.

“They’re planting the same species all over the world,” said Meredith Martin, an assistant professor of forestry at North Carolina State University who found that nonprofit tree planting efforts in the tropics tend to prioritize the livelihood needs of people over biodiversity or carbon storage. Over time, she said, these efforts risk reducing biodiversity in forests.

A major hurdle is lack of supply at local seed banks, which tend to be dominated by popular commercial species. Some groups overcome this problem by paying people to collect seeds from nearby forests.

Another solution, experts say, is to let forests come back on their own. If the area is only lightly degraded or sits near existing forest, a method called natural regeneration can be cheaper and more effective. Simply fencing off certain areas from grazing will often allow trees to return, with both carbon sequestration and biodiversity built in.

“Nature knows much more than we do,” Chazdon said.



People watch the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Thursday in New York. Many cities welcomed back parades after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/AP

St. Patrick’s Day celebrations spring back as outbreaks slow

By Bobby Caina Calvan
Associated Press

NEW YORK — St. Patrick’s Day celebrations across the country are back after a two-year hiatus, including the nation’s largest in New York City, in a sign of growing hope that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic may be over.

The holiday served as a key marker in the outbreak’s progression, with parades celebrating Irish heritage among the first big public events to be called off in 2020.

The full-fledged return of New York’s parade coincided with the city’s wider reopening. Major mask and vaccination rules were recently lifted.

The city’s famed Fifth Avenue was awash with green, as hordes of revelers took to sidewalks amid damp skies.

Kathy Brucia, 65, has been attending the parade for more than three decades, she said — except the past two years.

“The pandemic,” she said. “I don’t think it’s over. But I think a lot of people feel like, wow, we could finally go to a parade and not worry. But

I think everybody has to worry,” she said.

Celebrations returned to other cities too.

The South’s largest St. Patrick’s Day celebration made a big comeback in Savannah, Georgia, where Irish immigrants and their descendants have held parades since 1824.

Tori Purvis, 46, arrived before dawn to claim a spot near the start of the parade along with her 3-year-old son, Tristan, still wearing pajamas decorated with leprechaun hats and rainbows. Purvis said she’s been celebrating St. Patrick’s Day in Savannah since childhood, and the only years she recalls not showing up were 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic forced the parade to be canceled.

“I’m not against masks or anything, but it’s nice to see people outside without masks and enjoying their time,” Purvis said. “It’s like a little bit of normalcy is coming back.”

Over the weekend, Chicago dyed its river green, after doing so without much fanfare last year and skipping the tradition altogether during the initial virus onslaught.

Boston, home to one of the country’s largest Irish enclaves, is resuming its annual parade Sunday after a two-year absence.

Some communities in Florida, one of the first states to reopen its economy, were also bringing their parades back.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis chose St. Patrick’s Day two years ago to shutter restaurants, bars and nightclubs — a dramatic move by the Republican and which underscored the fear and uncertainty of the time.

Since then, DeSantis has been one of the country’s leading voices against mask and vaccine mandates, as well as other pandemic measures.

For a few brief moments Thursday in New York, there was solemnity, too, as the procession paused to remember the fallen — including those who perished during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the first responders killed in the line of duty and the thousands taken by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bishop Edmund Whalen also urged solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

US on cusp of deal to reenter 2015 Iran nuclear agreement

By Matthew Lee
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the war in Ukraine rages on, diplomats trying to salvage the languishing 2015 Iran nuclear deal have been forging ahead with negotiations despite distractions caused by the conflict. They now appear to be near the cusp of a deal that would bring the U.S. back into the accord and bring Iran back into compliance with limits on its nuclear program.

After 11 months of on-and-off talks in Vienna, U.S. officials and others say only a small number of issues remain to be resolved.

Meanwhile, Russia appears to have backed down on a threat to crater an agreement over Ukraine-related sanctions that had dampened prospects for a quick deal.

That leaves an agreement — or at least an agreement in principle — up to political leaders in Washington and Tehran. But Iran and the U.S. say those decisions must be made by the other side, leaving a resolution in limbo even as all involved say the matter must be resolved as soon as possible.

“We are close to a possible deal, but we’re not there yet,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said. “We are going to find out in the near term whether we’re able to get there.”

Also this week in Berlin, German Foreign Ministry spokesman Christofer Burger said work “on drafting a final text has been completed” and “the necessary political decisions now need to be taken in capitals.”

“We hope that these negotiations can now be swiftly completed,” he said.

Reentering the 2015 deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, has been a priority for the Biden administration since it took office.

Once a signature foreign



Iranian diplomat Hossein Amirabdollahian, right, welcomes Rafael Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Organization, to a meeting this month in Tehran. AP

policy achievement of the Obama administration in which now-President Joe Biden served as vice president, the accord was abandoned in 2018 by then-President Donald Trump, who called it the worst deal ever negotiated and set about restoring and expanding on U.S. sanctions that had been lifted.

The Biden administration argues that any threat posed by Iran would be infinitely more dangerous should it obtain a nuclear weapon. Deal opponents, mostly but not entirely Republicans, say the original deal gave Iran a path to developing a nuclear bomb by removing various constraints under so-called sunset clauses. Those clauses meant that certain restrictions were to be gradually lifted.

Both sides’ arguments gained intensity over the weekend when Iran targeted the northern Iraqi city of Irbil with missile strikes that hit near the U.S. Consulate compound.

For critics, the attack was proof that Iran cannot be trusted and should not be given any sanctions relief. For the administration, it confirmed that Iran would be a greater danger if it obtains a nuclear weapon.

Meanwhile, a new glimmer of hope for progress emerged Wednesday when

Iran released two detained British citizens. The U.S., which withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018, and the three European countries that remain parties to it had said an agreement would be difficult if not impossible to reach while those prisoners, along with several American citizens, remain jailed in Iran.

Yet, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said a deal depends on Washington.

“More than ever, (the) ball is in U.S. court to provide the responses needed for successful conclusion of the talks,” he said after meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow. Amirabdollahian said he had been “reassured that Russia remains on board for the final agreement in Vienna.”

Lavrov said the negotiations were in the “home stretch” and suggested that last-minute Russian objections to the potential spillover of Ukraine-related sanctions into activities Moscow might undertake with Tehran under a new nuclear deal had been overcome.

He said the deal under consideration would carve those activities out, something the U.S. has not denied and has said the Russians should have understood from the beginning.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Italy court cuts prison time for 2 US men in police officer's slaying

From news services

ROME — An Italian appeals court Thursday reduced the sentences of two American men serving life terms over the multiple stabbing death of a Carabinieri police officer while they were on vacation in Rome in 2019.

After just over three hours of deliberations, the court in the Italian capital handed down sentences of 24 years to Finnegan Lee Elder and 22 years to Gabriel Natale-Hjorth. It upheld the convictions of the men, both from northern California, for the murder of Carabinieri Vice Brigadier Mario Cerciello Rega on a street near their hotel.

After the first trial last year, the two friends had begun serving the earlier life sentences, Italy's harshest punishment, in separate Rome prisons.

Judge Andrea Calabria kept media out of the courtroom for pandemic concerns, and it wasn't clear how the defendants reacted to the decision. Italy has two levels of appeals, and Elder's lawyers indicated they would seek recourse.

Cerciello Rega, 35, was given a hero's funeral in the Naples area church where he had been married just a few weeks earlier. The officer was stabbed 11 times.

In May 2021, the lower court had convicted Elder, now 22, and Natale-Hjorth, now 21, of the slaying as well as of attempted extortion in connection with a botched attempt to buy cocaine in a Rome nightlife district. The two were also convicted of resisting a public official and carrying an attack-style knife without just cause.

The officer and his patrol partner, dressed in shorts and casual shirts, were on plainclothes mission when they

confronted Elder and Natale-Hjorth early on July 26, 2019. For reasons never fully clear, neither officer brought his service gun on the mission.

Elder and Natale-Hjorth testified in their first trial that they thought the officers were thugs out to retaliate after the thwarted deal to buy cocaine hours earlier in another part of Rome.

HBCU threat suspects: As the nation's historically Black colleges remain on edge after dozens of bomb threats in recent weeks, federal law enforcement officials said they have identified six suspects who they believe are responsible for most of the racially motivated crimes.

More than a third of America's 101 historically Black colleges and universities have been targeted by calls or emails threatening to set off bombs on their campuses since early January, with the vast majority arriving during Black History Month in February.

The threats are being investigated as hate crimes.

At a congressional hearing Thursday, federal law enforcement agencies said they are working aggressively to make arrests in the 59 cases, calling the case their "highest priority."

All six suspects are juveniles, according to the FBI.

Ryan Young, executive assistant director of the FBI intelligence branch, said investigators have identified "one person and a small group," although some of the threats may have been copycat crimes.

No explosives have been found in connection with the threats.

Underage driver: A 13-year-old boy was driving the pickup that struck a van in West Texas in a fiery collision that killed nine people,



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men dance as they celebrate the holiday of Purim on Thursday in Bnei Brak, Israel. The holiday, which ended at sundown, marks the victory of Jews over a tyrant in ancient Persia and is celebrated with costumes, parties, drinking and the traditional triangular filled pastry called hamantaschen. AMIR LEVY/GETTY

National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg said Thursday.

The truck's left front tire, which was a spare tire, also blew out before impact, he said.

Although it was unclear how fast the two vehicles were traveling, "this was clearly a high-speed collision," Landsberg said.

One must be 14 in Texas to start taking classroom courses for a learner's license and 15 to receive that provisional license to drive with an instructor or licensed adult in the vehicle. Department of Public Safety Sgt. Victor Taylor said a 13-year-old driving would be breaking the law.

The pickup crossed into the opposite lane on a two-lane highway Tuesday night before colliding with the van, killing the boy, a man traveling with him, six New Mexico college students and a golf coach. Two other students were hospitalized.

COVID-19 pill: Nearly three dozen companies worldwide will soon start making generic versions of Pfizer's coronavirus pill, the U.N.-backed Medicines Patent Pool that negotiated the deal said Thursday.

The pool said in a statement that agreements signed with 35 companies should help make Pfizer's antiviral nirmatrelvir, or Paxlovid, available to more than half of the world's population.

Generic drugmakers across a dozen countries in Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Eastern Europe will begin producing either the raw ingredients for the Pfizer drug or the pill itself.

Charles Gore, executive director of the Medicines Patent Pool estimated that some of the generic companies might be ready to submit their drugs for regulatory approval later this year, with some supplies available in 2023.

Pfizer's drug has been found to cut the risk of hospi-

talization or death in people at risk of severe COVID-19 by up to 90% and it is also thought to be effective against the omicron variant.

Vatican scandal: The first cardinal to face a criminal trial in a Vatican courtroom, once one of the Roman Catholic Church's most powerful officials, told the court Thursday that he was ready to clear his name against charges of embezzlement and abuse of office. The cardinal, Giovanni Angelo Becciu, is facing charges alongside nine others accused of defrauding the Vatican. In particular, the case primarily focuses on a London real estate investment that prosecutors say lost the Vatican millions while enriching middlemen.

All those charged have denied wrongdoing, and Becciu, 73, again declared his innocence Thursday.

At the time the deal was struck, Becciu was "sostituto," or chief of staff, in the Holy See's Secretariat of State, where he played a

significant role in running the Curia, the bureaucracy that governs the Vatican. Pope Francis dismissed him from his final Vatican post in September 2020, while the deal was under investigation.

Cargo ship sinks: An Emirati-flagged cargo ship sank in stormy seas off Iran's southern coast in the Persian Gulf on Thursday, authorities said. Rescuers were trying to account for the vessel's 30 crew members.

Capt. Nizar Qaddoura, operations manager of the company that owns the ship, said the Al Salmi 6 encountered treacherous weather. The choppy waters forced the vessel to list and within hours submerged the ship.

Emergency workers from Iran saved 16 crew members, Qaddoura said, and civilian ships had been asked to help. Another 11 survivors made it into life rafts, while one person was saved from the water by a nearby tanker. Two crew members were still in the sea, he said.



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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

Study: SUVs, pickups hit pedestrians more often

Popularity of larger vehicles, wider cabin pillars questioned by researchers

By **Tom Krisher**
Associated Press

DETROIT — Drivers of bigger vehicles such as pickup trucks and SUVs are more likely to hit pedestrians while making turns than drivers of cars, according to a new study.

The research released Thursday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety points to the increasing popularity of larger vehicles as a possible factor in rising pedestrian deaths on U.S. roads. The authors also questioned whether wider pillars holding up roofs of the larger vehicles make it harder for drivers to spot people walking near the corners of vehicles.

“The link between these vehicle types and certain common pedestrian crashes points to another way that the increase in SUVs on the roads might be changing the crash picture,” said Jessica Cicchino, a study author and vice president of research for the institute.

Although the study mentioned previous research showing blind spots caused by the “A-pillars” between the windshield and the cabin, the authors said more study is needed to link the blind spots to the

increased deaths.

In 2020, the last year for which complete statistics are available, 6,519 pedestrians were killed in the U.S., according to government data. That’s up 59% since 2009, and a 4% increase from 2019, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said.

Not all SUVs and pickup trucks have the blind spots, though. Compact SUVs, for instance, are now the largest part of the U.S. market.

The study also found that the larger vehicles were more likely than cars to be involved in crashes where pedestrians were standing, walking or running near the edge of the road and away from intersections.

Researchers studied federal crash statistics in which pedestrians were killed, as well as all pedestrian crashes reported in North Carolina from 2010 through 2018.

The North Carolina statistics showed that pickups were 42% more likely than cars to hit pedestrians while making left turns. SUVs were 23% more likely to hit people than cars. There was no significant difference in the odds of a right turn crash for the different types of vehicles, the study showed.

Trucks, SUVs and vans typically have

thicker “A-Pillars” than cars because of federal roof-strength standards to prevent collapse in rollover crashes, the IIHS said. The pillars typically are wider because they have to withstand the higher weights of the bigger vehicles.

And the pillars aren’t the only things creating blind spots in the bigger vehicles. Consumer Reports found last year that high hoods also obstructed driver views of pedestrians crossing in front of the vehicles.

“To see over that high hood, you’re going to be looking further down the road,” said Jennifer Stockburger, director of operations at Consumer Reports’ auto test center.

The magazine and website found that pickup truck hood heights have risen 11% since 2000. The hood of a 2017 Ford F-250 heavy-duty pickup was 55 inches off the ground, as tall as the roofs of some cars, Stockburger said.

Automakers could use stronger metals to make the A-Pillars smaller and increase visibility, said Wen Hu, an IIHS senior transportation engineer. “Increasing the size of the A-Pillar is not the only way to increase the strength.”

IIHS, which is funded by auto insurance companies, studies vehicle safety.

Amazon completes \$8.5B deal for MGM

Associated Press

Amazon announced Thursday that it has closed its acquisition of Hollywood studio MGM, two days after European regulators said the deal “would not significantly reduce competition” in European markets.

The retail giant had announced the \$8.5 billion deal in May, making it the company’s second-largest acquisition following its \$13.7 billion deal with Whole Foods in 2017. The latest acquisition was aimed at boosting Amazon’s streaming services to compete against Netflix and Disney+.

The Wall Street Journal reported this month that Amazon certified to the Federal Trade Commission it provided information sought by antitrust investigators regarding the deal, adding it could be free to close the purchase if the commission doesn’t file a legal challenge before a mid-March deadline.

One of the oldest studios in Hollywood, MGM has been through bankruptcy and new sets of owners in the past decade while its new releases dwindled.

Amazon praised the deal in a blog post Thursday, saying MGM has more than 4,000 film titles, 17,000 TV episodes and awards that “will complement Prime Video and Amazon Studios’ work in delivering a diverse offering of entertainment choices.”

Amazon plans to draw on the vast MGM library, with famous characters such as Rocky, RoboCop and Pink Panther, to create new movies and shows.

The latest acquisition comes as antitrust regulators scrutinize Amazon for its broader practices and operations.

Last week, House lawmakers asked the Justice Department to investigate whether the tech giant and senior executives obstructed Congress or violated other federal laws in testimony on its competition practices.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

30-year mortgage rate surpasses 4%

WASHINGTON — Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates rose this week as the key 30-year loan vaulted over 4% for the first time since May 2019.

The increase came amid expectations that with inflation at a four-decade high, the Federal Reserve would raise its benchmark short-term interest rate. That action came Wednesday, as the Fed increased the key rate — which it had kept near zero since the pandemic recession struck two years ago — by a quarter-point. And the central bank signaled potentially up to seven additional rate hikes this year.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the average rate on the 30-year loan this week jumped to 4.16% from 3.85% last week.

Russia: Interest on debt was paid

LONDON — Russia’s Finance Ministry said it transferred a \$117 million bond interest payment in an attempt to avoid a default on government debt but left it open as to whether the money actually reached foreign investors by the deadline.

A ministry statement carried on Russian state media Thursday said the money had been transferred to an account at Citibank in London and that the ministry would make a statement later on the results of the transfer.

The payment, which was due Wednesday, would be the first on foreign currency debt since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Russia is facing increased financial isolation after Western sanctions have frozen much of the government’s hard currency reserves held outside the country.



Visitors gaze at white flags, part of a temporary art installation in remembrance of Americans who died of COVID-19, in Washington. A U.S. program offers up to \$9,000 per funeral for COVID-19 related deaths. The virus death toll in the U.S. tops 966,000. **BRYNN ANDERSON/AP 2021**

‘Our goal is to help families’

FEMA program will provide over \$2B for funeral expenses stemming from the pandemic

By **Zeke Miller**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government has provided more than \$2 billion to help cover funeral costs for more than 300,000 families of people who died from COVID-19, the Federal Emergency Management Agency said this week as it launched a new campaign to raise awareness about the program to eligible families.

More than 966,000 people have died in the U.S. from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

The COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program provides up to \$9,000 per funeral and covers COVID-19 related deaths since Jan. 20, 2020. The average amount awarded per death is \$6,500, according to FEMA.

“FEMA’s COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program has helped provide over 300,000 people with critical financial relief during

a time of such unexpected, unimaginable and widespread loss,” FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said.

On Tuesday, the agency launched an ad campaign in California, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas targeted at areas with large rates of COVID-19 deaths but lower rates of reimbursement requests to help connect people to available assistance.

The agency is also reaching out to community groups and local media outlets to help publicize the program.

“Our new outreach campaign is designed to reach families, especially across underserved communities, where the cost of a funeral can be a financial burden to a loved one,” Criswell said. “Our goal is to help families apply for assistance, as well as submit all required documents for existing applications.”

To be eligible for reimbursement, death certificates for those who died after May 16, 2020, must indicate that the death was attributed to COVID-19. For deaths that occurred in the early months of the pandemic — from Jan. 20 to May 16, 2020 — death certificates must be accompanied

with a signed statement from a medical examiner, coroner or the certifying official listed on the certificate indicating that COVID-19 was the cause or a contributing cause of death.

Expenses covered under the program include funeral services, cremation and interment, as well as the costs for caskets or urns, burial plots or cremation niches, markers or headstones, transportation or transfer of remains, clergy or officiant services, and the use of funeral home equipment or staff.

The program was first signed into law in the waning days of President Donald Trump’s administration but began accepting applications weeks into President Joe Biden’s term.

The initial bill provided \$2 billion for the funeral assistance, which was exhausted in recent days. Funding going forward will come from Biden’s 2021 relief bill known as the “American Rescue Plan.”

FEMA is not accepting online applications. People eligible are directed to call the agency’s helpline 844-684-6333 where they will be prompted to submit documentation.

UK warns tech leaders about online safety

By **Kelvin Chan**
Associated Press

LONDON — Senior managers at tech companies would face up to two years in prison if they fail to comply with British rules aimed at ensuring online safety for internet users, the U.K. government said Thursday as it unveiled the draft legislation in Parliament.

The ambitious but controversial online safety bill would give regulators wide-ranging powers to crack down on digital and social media companies like Google, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok.

Authorities in the United Kingdom are the vanguard of a global movement to rein in the power of tech platforms and make

them more responsible for harmful material such as child sex abuse, racist content, bullying, fraud and other harmful material that proliferates on their platforms. Similar efforts are underway in the European Union and United States.

While the internet has transformed people’s lives, “tech firms haven’t been held to account when harm, abuse and criminal behavior have run riot on their platforms,” U.K. Digital Secretary Nadine Dorries said in a statement. “If we fail to act, we risk sacrificing the wellbeing and innocence of countless generations of children to the power of unchecked algorithms.”

British lawmakers still need to vote to approve the bill before it becomes law.

The government has toughened the

legislation since it was first written after a committee of lawmakers recommended improvements. Changes include clamping down on anonymous trolls, requiring porn sites to verify users are 18 or older, and making cyberflashing — or sending someone unsolicited graphic images — a criminal offense.

Tech executives would be criminally liable two months after the law takes force, instead of two years afterward as proposed in the original draft. Companies could be fined up to 10% of their annual global revenue for violations.

There’s also a wider range of criminal offenses that could result in prison sentences of up to two years in the updated draft.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



BUSINESS



The elevation of Lake Powell, above, fell below a critical threshold Tuesday. The drop marks another realization of the effects of climate change and megadrought. **RICK BOWMER/AP 2021**

Hydropower concerns high after Lake Powell’s record low

By Sam Metz and Felicia Fonseca
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A massive reservoir known as a boating mecca dipped below a critical threshold this week raising new concerns about a source of power that millions of people in the West rely on for electricity.

Lake Powell’s fall to below 3,525 feet puts it at its lowest level since the lake filled after the federal government dammed the Colorado River at Glen Canyon more than a half-century ago — a record marking yet another sobering realization of the impacts of climate change and megadrought.

It comes as hotter temperatures and less precipitation leave a smaller amount flowing through the overtapped Colorado River. Though water scarcity is hardly new in the region, hydropower concerns at Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona reflect that a future western states assumed was years away is approaching fast.

“We clearly weren’t sufficiently prepared for the need to move this quickly,”

said John Fleck, director of the University of New Mexico’s Water Resources Program.

Federal officials are confident water levels will rise in the coming months once snow melts in the Rockies. But they warn that more may need to be done to ensure Glen Canyon Dam can keep producing hydropower in the years ahead.

“Spring runoff will resolve the deficit in the short term,” said Wayne Pullan, regional director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages water and power in more than a dozen states. “However, our work is not done.”

Though both Lake Powell and its downstream counterpart, Lake Mead, are dropping faster than expected, much of the region’s focus has been on how to deal with water scarcity in Arizona, Nevada and California.

For Glen Canyon Dam, the new level is 35 feet above what’s considered “minimum power pool” — the level at which its turbines would stop producing hydroelectric power.

If Lake Powell drops even more, it could soon hit

“deadpool” — the point at which water likely would fail to flow through the dam and onto Lake Mead.

Arizona, Nevada, California, and Mexico already are taking a combination of mandatory and voluntary cuts tied to Lake Mead’s levels.

About 5 million customers in seven states — Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — buy power generated at Glen Canyon Dam.

The government provides it at a cheaper rate than energy sold on the wholesale market, which can be wind, solar, coal or natural gas.

For the cities, rural electric cooperatives and tribes that rely on its hydropower, less water flowing through Glen Canyon Dam can therefore increase total energy costs. Customers bear the brunt.

Bureau of Reclamation officials last summer took an unprecedented step and diverted water from reservoirs in Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado in what they called “emergency releases” to replenish Lake Powell.

US poultry farmers struggle amid surge of bird flu cases

By David Pitt
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Nearly 7 million chickens and turkeys in 13 states have been killed this year due to avian influenza, prompting officials and farmers to acknowledge that, despite their best efforts, stopping the disease from infecting poultry is incredibly difficult.

Spread of the disease is largely blamed on the droppings of wild birds, such as ducks and geese, which often show no signs of illness. But studies suggest the virus can be tracked into secure chicken and turkey barns on equipment, workers, mice, small birds, and even dust particles.

Infected wild birds have been found in at least 21 states, and the virus has been circulating in migrating waterfowl in Europe and Asia for nearly a year.

State and federal officials remain hopeful that the disease won’t spread as extensively as during an outbreak in 2015 that resulted in the deaths of about 50 millions chickens and turkeys, causing egg and meat prices to soar. Bird flu hit more than 200 farms in 15 states, costing the federal government about \$1 billion and the poultry industry an estimated \$3 billion.

Still, without certainty about how to stop the disease this time, officials can’t be sure it will peter out on its own. Food prices already are elevated due to inflation and supply chain problems, and if the bird flu outbreak expands to enough farms, chicken, turkey and egg prices could surge even higher.

“We’re not seeing a massive outbreak on a large scale, so I think it’s too soon to be concerned about food impact or pricing impact at this point, but you have to acknowledge that can be an issue over time,” Iowa Secre-



Minnesota turkey farmer Greg Langmo lost 90,000 turkeys in 2015. Nearly 7 million chickens and turkeys in 13 states have been killed this year from bird flu. **JIM MONE/AP 2015**

tary of Agriculture Mike Naig said.

This year, the first case was found in a commercial facility in Indiana in February. Since then, 6.6 million egg-laying and broiler chickens and 341,000 turkeys have been culled, typically buried in trenches on site.

The United States Department of Agriculture says the virus doesn’t present a food quality issue since birds on infected farms must be culled and do not enter the food processing system. Still, the proper handling and cooking of all poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 degrees is recommended as a general food safety precaution.

Even though scientists feel confident that wild birds are spreading the disease, they remain unsure how the virus enters highly secure barns, which are typically equipped with modern ventilation systems and have strict protocols for people entering the buildings.

Asked about Iowa’s first case in a commercial turkey flock, Iowa State Veterinarian Dr. Jeff Kaisand noted, “We don’t know exactly how it got in.”

It’s an especially big question in Iowa, the leading

egg-producing state with 49 million chickens. On March 11, Iowa saw its first case this year in a commercial egg-laying operation, leading to the killing of about 919,000 hens.

On Monday, the disease was confirmed at an egg-layer farm in Wisconsin with 3 million hens.

Minnesota turkey farmer Greg Langmo, who lost 90,000 turkeys in 2015, is thankful his state, the nation’s leading turkey grower, has been spared so far. He said farmers are following biosecurity protocols, going so far as to keep starling and barn swallow nests away from their barns.

“We’re very hopeful that some of the new strategies that we’re employing are going to be enough to stave it off,” he said. “We’re doing the best we can and we’re going to play the cards we have.”

Studies in the U.S. and France since 2015 suggest the virus can be carried by wind-borne dust particles. This has led to new protocols to mitigate airborne transmission during outbreaks, including killing infected birds within 24 hours, increased testing and extra precautions within 6 miles of infected facilities.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, March 18, 2022

▲ DOW

34,480.76 +417.66

■ 10-YR T-BOND

2.19% ...

▲ GOLD

\$1,942.10 +34.10

Dow Jones Industrials

Close: 34,480.76

Change: 417.66 (1.2%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,480.76	+417.66	-5.11%
DOW Trans.	16,583.44	+209.99	+64%
DOW Util.	990.83	+5.42	+1.02%
NYSE Comp.	16,483.58	+222.08	-3.96%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,614.78	+178.23	-12.98%
S&P 500	4,411.67	+53.81	-7.44%
S&P 400	2,684.30	+26.31	-5.55%
Wilshire 5000	44,427.40	+621.82	-8.32%
Russell 2000	2,065.02	+34.30	-8.03%

Commodities

	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	102.98	95.04	+36.92%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.99	4.75	+33.78%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.22	2.99	+44.35%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,942.10	1,908.00	+6.27%
Silver (oz)	25.58	24.67	+9.67%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx
Britain	1.3155	.7602
Canada	.7910	1.2642
China	.1576	6.3470
Euro	1.1101	.9009
Japan	.008433	118.58
Mexico	.048739	20.5175

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	3.50	3.25	
3-mo. T-Bill	0.41	0.38	
6-mo. T-Bill	0.80	0.68	
5-yr T-Note	2.17	1.74	
10-yr T-Note	2.19	1.84	
30-yr T-Bond	2.48	2.22	

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	14,388.06	-52.68	-.36%	-9.42%
London	7,385.34	+93.66	+1.28%	+.01%
Hong Kong	21,501.23	+1,413.73	+7.04%	-8.11%
Nikkei	26,652.89	+890.88	+3.46%	-7.43%

Stocks of Local Interest							
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG
AT&T Inc (T)	23.19	...	-5.7	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	2.44	+.69	-53.3
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	111.69	-3.68	-22.4	Novartis AG (NVS)	86.44	+1.80	-1.2
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	16.55	+.08	-7.9	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	247.66	+2.70	-15.8
Amphenol Corp (APH)	75.92	+.69	-13.2	Occid Petl (OXY)	58.01	+5.02	+100.1
Apple Inc (AAPL)	160.62	+1.03	-9.5	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	76.39	+.89	-12.3
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.98	+.23	-9.8	PG&E Corp (PCG)	11.76	-.24	-3.1
Bank of America (BAC)	43.03	+.23	-3.3	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	12.32	+.53	-32.3
Barnes Group (B)	41.85	+.08	-10.2	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.09	-.29	+18.4
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2161.14	-41.30	-9.9	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	54.24	+1.32	-8.1
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	70.52	+.86	+13.1	Pinduoduo Inc ADS (PDD)	39.37	-3.25	-32.5
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	108.56	+1.45	+5.2	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	5.19	+.05	-21.7
Carnival Corp (CCL)	19.15	-.18	-4.8	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	115.40	+1.44	+6.6
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	47.12	+.24	-13.1	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	67.75	+.04	+1.5
Charter Commun (CHTR)	577.65	+5.54	-11.4	Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	97.75	+1.95	+13.6
Cigna Corp (CI)	242.39	+.48	+5.6	Robinhood Markets A (HOOD)	13.39	+.61	-24.6
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.48	+.25	-7.6	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.45	-.65	-2
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	2.56	+.01	-48.6	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	46.35	+4.84	-55.1
Disney (DIS)	139.47	+1.33	-10.0	SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	78.44	+.96	-4.3
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	117.70	-.60	-7.6	Schlumberger Ltd (SLB)	39.51	+1.63	+31.9
Eiger BioPharmaceuti (EIGR)	7.98	+2.29	+53.8	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	8.91	+.34	-43.6
Ethan Allen (ETD)	27.14	+.19	+3.2	Sonnet BioTherap (SONN)	.54	+.02	+30.3
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.26	+.23	-7.4	Square Inc (SQ)	127.96	+11.91	-20.8
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.50	-.01	-42.9	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	150.29	+1.89	-20.3
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	78.98	+2.05	+29.1	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.72	+.25	-2.4
Ford Motor (F)	16.58	...	-20.2	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.50	+.02	-12.8
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.40	+.20	+23.1	TD Holdings Inc (GLG)	.33	+.09	-20.5
Gen Dynamics (GD)	230.51	+2.82	+10.6	Terex Corp (TEX)	39.84	+.66	-9.4
Gen Electric (GE)	95.53	+.83	+1.1	Transocean Ltd (RIG)	4.29	+.41	+55.4
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.34	+.60	+1.9	Travelers Cos (TRV)	181.03	+1.74	+15.7
Honeywell Intl (HON)	191.93	+.90	-8.0	Twitter Inc (TWTR)	37.30	+1.93	-13.7
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	13.76	-.01	-13.6	Uber Technologies (UBER)	32.85	+.24	-21.7
Hycroft Mining Holdg (HYMC)	1.38	+.01	+124.8	United Rentals (URI)	346.77	+9.21	+4.4
IQIYI Inc (IQ)	2.91	-.25	-36.2	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	507.02	+8.76	+1.0
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.33	+.29	+8.6	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	236.76	+5.41	-20.3
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.49	-.62	-3.2	Voya Financial (VOYA)	65.17	-.25	-1.7
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Keycorp (KEY)	24.13	-.23	+4.3	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	51.48	-.12	+7.3
Kidpik Corp (PIK)	4.75	+2.91	-24.2	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1065.57	+1.09	+5.1
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	65.80	-.11	-3.6	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	58.84	+.61	+19.3
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	41.94	-.23	-6.6	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	76.81	+1.48	-.8
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	207.84	+4.21	-38.2	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.59	-.13	-13.5
Meten Holding Holdg (METX)	.20	+.02	-22.0				
MetLife Inc (MET)	68.17	+.65	+9.1				
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	295.22	+.83	-12.2				

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION
COURANT.COM/OPINION

A desperate Putin could be terrifying

By Hal Brands
Bloomberg Opinion

The war in Ukraine is getting more dangerous, in part because it is going better than Ukraine’s supporters could have imagined. President Joe Biden has sought to reconcile two conflicting objectives: avoiding U.S. military intervention while also helping Ukraine and making Moscow pay a high price for aggression.

Yet as Russian President Vladimir Putin grows more desperate, that balance will become harder to strike. Potentially, the worse Russia does, the greater risks the U.S. and its European allies may face.

Putin — and most observers — expected that Russian forces would quickly break Ukrainian resistance. Yet a combination of Russian incompetence and inspired Ukrainian defense has produced a rough stalemate. Moscow holds swaths of Ukrainian territory; its early gains in the south were impressive. There is a danger that it could cut off Ukrainian forces in the east, encircle and besiege Kyiv, or seize Mariupol and Odesa on the southern coast. Russia still has preponderant combat power.

But Western money and arms are enhancing Ukrainian endurance, while Ukrainian forces ambush Russian units and attack their vulnerable supply lines. Moscow’s losses are mounting and Putin now confronts the possibility that the war may destroy his army before it destroys Ukraine.

That would be a remarkable outcome — and one that could, ironically, create sharper dilemmas for the U.S.

Biden’s approach to Ukraine has been straightforward: He has punished Russia while scrupulously refusing to get involved in the fighting. Washington and its allies have hit Moscow with far-reaching, hard-biting sanctions; they have given Ukraine antitank rockets, ammunition and other means of bleeding the invaders.

This week, Biden said the U.S. will send an additional \$800 million in military aid, including cutting-edge explosive drones, and will help the Ukrainians acquire more lethal air-defense systems.

Yet Biden has ruled out a no-fly zone over Ukraine (a step most defense experts believe would be ineffectual, because it would not affect the Russian ground forces and artillery doing most of the damage), let alone more significant forms of direct U.S. military intervention. He halted the transfer of Polish jets to Kyiv for fear of provoking Moscow.

“We will defend every inch of NATO territory,” he tweeted, but “we will not fight a war against Russia in Ukraine,”



A destroyed Russian rocket launcher on the side of a road Wednesday outside Kharkiv, Ukraine. **SERGEY BOBOK/GETTY-APP**

because that would be “World War III.” Biden’s instincts are reasonable, but there are major perils ahead that could force a rethink of U.S. policy.

As Putin worries what stalemate or defeat might mean for his political survival, he could resort to dramatic, brutal tactics in hopes of breaking Ukraine’s will. Russian doctrine emphasizes an “escalate to de-escalate” strategy of limited nuclear strikes to avoid conventional military defeat. Yet even short of that, Putin has some scary options.

Russia could employ chemical weapons in Ukraine, or it could escalate the conventional bombardment of major cities with appalling humanitarian consequences. The latter is already happening in cities such as Mariupol and Kharkiv, while chemical attacks are reportedly under consideration in Moscow. Russia could also intensify attacks near NATO’s borders with western Ukraine or threaten nearby NATO countries militarily to sever the lifeline keeping Ukraine alive. Putin previewed this tactic when he used cruise missiles to pummel a base near the Polish border formerly used by U.S. troops — and now used by foreign fighters flocking to aid Ukraine.

Any of these options could appeal to a dictator looking to win a fight that, as U.S.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines has said, he “cannot afford to lose.” And any of them could provoke louder calls for intervention in the West.

The U.S. could conceivably have to reconsider its position even short of deliberate Russian escalation.

Suppose a stalemated war drags on for months or years, producing terrible bloodshed within Ukraine and instability and insecurity beyond it.

Suppose scared, frustrated Russian forces respond to dogged resistance by murdering civilians.

In the 1990s, Western democracies ultimately intervened in the former Yugoslavia to end a conflict that was having similar consequences. Today, writes recently retired Australian Gen. Mick Ryan, “there may be a requirement for a military intervention” in Ukraine, “if the west doesn’t want a forever war on the doorstep of Europe.”

To be perfectly clear: No sane person wants a U.S. war with Russia. Any clash between the world’s two greatest nuclear powers would carry unprecedented risks. Yet the danger that the Ukraine war may not follow America’s desired script has two implications for U.S. policy.

First, the Biden administration must

consider whether there are forms of Russian escalation within Ukraine that might trigger a Western military response. This isn’t a crazy question: If Putin successfully used tactical nuclear escalation in Ukraine to escape conventional defeat, he would send a truly terrible message to would-be aggressors and would-be proliferators around the world. So the U.S. government should be considering whether, and how, it might respond if Putin takes the conflict to an extreme.

Second, Biden should stop signaling that there are no circumstances in which Washington would intervene militarily. If the U.S. makes Putin think that he can act with impunity inside Ukraine, it may encourage the Russian dictator to run just the risks that would push America into a more agonizing debate about whether to get involved.

Biden is correct that a conflict with Moscow would be horrible. But not the least of the paradoxes of this war is that taking U.S. intervention off the table entirely may tempt just the sort of Russian escalation that the president is, quite rightly, hoping to avoid.

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A breakup over natural gas?



Paul Krugman

Germany is one of the world’s great trading nations. In 2019, it imported \$1.2 trillion worth of goods from all over the world. Only about 2% of that total came from Russia. In fact, the Russian Federation, with roughly 144 million people, was only slightly more important in German trade than Ireland, with around 5 million people. Ordinarily, then, you wouldn’t expect a disruption of economic relations with Russia to have a big effect on the German economy.

Unfortunately, Russia is a key supplier of one good Germany will find it hard to replace: natural gas. Nearly all of Germany’s natural gas consumption is imported via pipelines, and about 55% of its gas comes from Russia.

This situation should never have been allowed to happen; successive U.S. administrations going all the way back to Ronald Reagan have warned Germany not to let itself become so dependent on a despotic regime. (I witnessed some of those discussions during my own brief stint in government, in 1982-83.) But here we are. And while democratic nations have imposed a wide range of economic sanctions on the Putin regime, restrictions on Russian gas sales remain conspicuously absent from the list.

Yet Russian atrocities — and, to be honest, the surprising incompetence of Russia’s vaunted military, as the expected blitzkrieg continues its apparent stalemate — have been rapidly changing the political calculus of the West’s response. Not so long ago, it seemed inconceivable that German politicians would be willing to impose any significant pain on their voters in response to Vladimir Putin’s aggression.

Now there are serious discussions underway about whether and to what extent Germany can wean itself from Russian gas.

A small reduction in gas consumption shouldn’t be hard to achieve. Precisely because gas has been cheap, some of it is currently being burned in low-priority ways, easily discouraged with moderately higher prices and/or modest regulation. Large reductions, however, are another matter.

Put it this way: An important new study by a group of German economists (there are nine authors, so I’ll just refer to it as Bachmann et al.) estimates that eliminating gas imports from Russia would require cutting gas consumption by about 30%, to around 600 terawatt-hours from around

900 TWh. Why not 55%, the Russian share of German gas? Because Germany can probably get somewhat more gas from other sources and limit the use of gas for electricity generation by relying more on coal and nuclear power. (Yes, coal must be phased out to save us from climate catastrophe — but not in the middle of a war. It’s the St. Augustine principle: “Make me chaste, but not yet.”)

Even a 30% fall in consumption will, however, be hard to achieve on short notice. Cutting consumption from 900 to 800 TWh might not be that costly; the reduction from, say, 700 to 600 TWh would be a lot more painful.

The German economists focus on a key economic concept called the elasticity of substitution — roughly speaking, how much demand for natural gas falls off for every 1% rise in its price. If that elasticity is low, the amount Germans would be willing to pay for an extra bit of gas once consumption has already been substantially reduced is large, implying that the economic cost of further reductions is also large.

Unfortunately, empirical estimates suggest that the elasticity of substitution for natural gas is low, at least in the short run. It’s not zero: Given high gas prices, households will turn down their thermostats, consumers will stop buying goods whose production requires burning a lot of natural gas, and so on.

Still, the best guess is that we’re talking about an elasticity of around 0.18, which in turn means (if I’m doing the arithmetic right) that the price of natural gas would have to rise by around 600% to cut demand by 30%.

That sounds like a lot, and Bachmann et al. deliberately use an even more pessimistic estimated elasticity of 0.1.

Yet even with those pessimistic assumptions, they find that Germany could, in fact, do without Russian natural gas, precisely because the country currently spends so little on Russian imports. The costs would be serious: German real income might fall by around 2%, the equivalent of a moderate recession. But it wouldn’t be the end of the world.

Such drastic action would have been inconceivable a month ago. But Putin seems to be in the process of achieving something remarkable: reminding the world’s democracies what they stand for. He has already ruined Russia’s reputation as a military superpower; he’s now in the process of reducing whatever economic power it had, too.

Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.

Biden throttling US energy

By GianCarlo Canaparo
The Heritage Foundation

A capable presidential administration plans, anticipates, and implements strategies. An ineffective administration bounces haphazardly from crisis to crisis. It’s the difference between playing chess and playing pinball.

Joe Biden’s mismanagement of skyrocketing gas prices gives us a hint as to what game he’s playing.

Gas prices, already high and rising due to supply-chain problems and inflation, skyrocketed when Biden announced a ban on U.S. imports of Russian oil. Before making that announcement, a capable administration would have started getting government out of the way of domestic energy producers and opening access to our vast oil and gas resources on public lands.

Instead, Biden’s administration has made it more difficult for America to produce and sell energy. Rather than clear the way for American energy producers, Biden prefers to ask human rights abusers like Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Iran to do for the United States what he will not.

At first, Biden patted himself on the back for his plans to restrict oil and natural gas-based energy. Now that gasoline prices are really taking off, however, he denies that he has slowed domestic oil drilling. But he has.

Not only did he block major oil and gas operations, he broke the law to do it.

On Biden’s first day in office, he issued an executive order directing the secretary of the interior to put a “temporary” (bureaucratese for “permanent”) moratorium on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. That program directs the Bureau of Land Management to lease certain lands in Alaska for oil and gas extraction. A few days later, he issued another order “pausing” oil and gas leases on all public lands and waters.

According to the bureau, Alaska’s Coastal Plain is “some of the most highly prospective land on Alaska’s North Slope.” It contains billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas. It is a king’s ransom of energy wealth, and the law requires that the administration make it available for extraction.

Trump’s administration complied, and the bureau began issuing leases to energy firms toward the end of his term. But Biden terminated the program immediately and likely violated the Administrative Procedure Act in the process. His decision to pause leases on public lands, meanwhile, violated another law that requires quarterly lease sales.

The result: Biden has unlawfully trapped much of America’s vast energy reserves behind a wall of bureaucratic red tape, leaving them unavailable now that the country needs them. Because of that, Americans are going to suffer at the pumps far more than they ought to.

If Biden were playing chess instead of pinball, he wouldn’t have made this mistake.

At the very least, he would have taken steps to cure other problems that are artificially inflating oil prices. He would have, for example, issued a Jones Act waiver, temporarily suspending the law while pushing Congress to repeal it permanently.

The Jones Act requires goods shipped between U.S. ports to be sent on ships made, flagged, and crewed by Americans. That severely restricts shipping options and makes American shipping much more expensive than foreign shipping. So expensive, in fact, that it’s often cheaper to buy foreign oil and gas, and so limited that — in the case of liquefied natural gas — there are no Jones-Act compliant ships to transport it.

As a result, Americans too often are stuck with expensive foreign energy rather than cheaper energy we produce here. Only the uniquely twisted logic found in Washington could justify a law that makes it cheaper to buy foreign oil and gas over American.

Hawaii, for example, gets 28% of its oil imports from Russia, in part, because the Jones Act makes it too expensive for Hawaiians to buy gasoline from the mainland. Hawaii is about to lose more than a quarter of its imported supply, and Biden has no plan to replace it with American energy.

Instead, his administration is telling people to buy electric cars. Not that it will do Hawaiians any good; petroleum-fired power plants supply more than three-fourths of the state’s electricity.

If Biden reopened the Coastal Plain and public lands and waters to exploration, it would likely lower prices somewhat simply by sending the global market a signal that American energy is open for business. But it will take time for production to ramp up and lower prices further.

If only someone had planned for this a year ago. As with his withdrawal from Afghanistan, Biden again failed to anticipate and mitigate negative consequences. It’s high time the administration stopped playing pinball. The American people pay too high a price when he misses the ball.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve
NPDES Permit Renewal
Applicant: Town of Canton
Application No. 202111995
City/Town: Canton**

The Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") hereby gives notice that a tentative determination has been reached to approve the following application.

Applicant's Name and Address: Town of Canton, 4 Market Street, Collinsville, CT 06022
Contact Name and Phone No.: Roger J. Ignazio, Jr. 860-693-7867
Type of Permit and #: NPDES - CT0100072
Type of Facility: Domestic Wastewater Treatment
Facility Location: 50 Old River Road, Collinsville, CT 06022
Facility design capacity: 0.95 million gallons per day

COMMISSIONER'S FINDINGS/REGULATORY CONDITIONS
The applicant has previously received a permit from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") authorizing the discharge of up to an annual average daily design flow of 0.95 million gallons a day of secondary treated municipal wastewaters to the Farmington River. The applicant has submitted an application to renew its existing permit. This renewal application is the subject of this notice.

THE DRAFT PERMIT
The Department has prepared a draft permit consistent with the tentative determination to approve the Town of Canton's renewal application. This draft is available on the public participation section of the Department's website. In accordance with Sections 22a-430-4(i) and 22a-430-4(r) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), the draft permit contains effluent limitations that meet Connecticut's Water Quality Standards for the following: Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5 day), escherichia coli, flow, pH, Phosphorus, Total (seasonal load cap), and total suspended solids.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT
This application has been assigned No. 202111995; please use this number when corresponding with DEEP regarding this application. Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from the applicant at the above address. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documentation can be provided to interested persons via email. The application and supporting documentation are also available for in-person inspection at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Water Protection and Land Reuse Bureau, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing measures implemented by DEEP an advanced appointment for an in-person inspection of the application is recommended. Any such requests for electronic documents or in-person inspection appointments may be directed to Ann Straut, Sanitary Engineer 3, of the Municipal Wastewater Section at 860-424-3137 or ann.straut@ct.gov.

Before making a final decision on this application, the Commissioner shall consider written comments on the application from interested persons. Written comments on the application should be directed to Ann Straut, Sanitary Engineer 3, via electronic mail to: ann.straut@ct.gov no later than thirty (30) days from the publication date of this notice. Written comments may also be submitted in paper form to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection located at 79 Elm Street, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse Hartford, CT. In this submittal, please identify the name of the staff assigned to the application, the permit application number and your phone number and/or email address to facilitate responses to your comments. Due to the Covid-19 virus Pandemic and social distancing measures implemented by DEEP staff, there could be delays in the response to your comments. You may contact the staff person identified in this notice with any questions you may have.

PETITIONS FOR HEARING
The Commissioner may conduct a public hearing if the Commissioner determines that the public interest will best be served thereby, or shall hold a hearing upon receipt of a petition signed by at least twenty-five persons. Petitions for a hearing shall be submitted within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this public notice and should include the application number noted above and also identify a contact person to receive notifications. Petitions should also identify a person who is authorized to engage in discussions regarding the application and, if resolution is reached, withdraw the petition. In order to facilitate the filing of requests for hearing during the COVID-19 emergency and consistent with the Department's Temporary Directive, the Office of Adjudications will accept electronic filings in addition to petitions submitted by mail. Petitions with required signatures may be filed by email to deep.adjudications@ct.gov or mailed to the DEEP Office of Adjudications, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106. Within thirty (30) days of their filing, original petitions that were filed electronically must also be mailed to the Office of the above-noted address. If the original petition exists only in electronic format or signatures were produced using a computer or typewriter, the petition must be submitted with a statement bearing the wet-ink signature of the petitioner that the petition is only available in that format and has been submitted to satisfy the requirement that an original petition be filed. If a hearing is held, timely notice of such hearing will be published in a newspaper of general circulation and posted on the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep. Additional information at www.ct.gov/deep/adjudications.

Dated: 3/17/2022
Graham J. Stevens
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or by email @deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you are requesting a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, need some other type of accommodation, or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.
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Matthew Kozaka
Business Manager
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North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is seeking proposals to provide adult day care to persons with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia. Funding will supplement aide positions. Eligible applicants include existing adult day centers and participants from North Central Connecticut. DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS EXTENDED TO APRIL 1, 2022 at 11:59PM Eastern Standard Time. For further information check NCAAA's website (www.ncaaac.org/funding) or contact Crystal Bailey at 860-724-6443 ext.246 or crystal.bailey@ncaaac.org.
3/18/2022 7:17:917

Hartford

ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE The undersigned hereby advertises the sale of liened goods: Tuesday the 29th day of March, 2022 at 11:00 AM, on that day will conduct a sale with bidding to take place on lockerfox.com, FOR CASH ONLY, the contents of spaces at Storage Rentals of America, 1065 Voluntown Rd, Griswold, CT, 06351 McDonough, Colleen unit 1204 Asst. household goods, Silva, Marci unit 106 Asst. household goods, Storage Rentals of America, 127 Main St., Portland, CT, 06480 Jacobsen, John unit A018 Asst. household goods, Voss, Richard unit 170 Asst. household goods, Brodeur, Dawn unit 350 Asst. household goods, Blackwell, Billie unit 505 Asst. household goods, Sokoloski, Sean unit B023 Asst. household goods, Bugaj, Stephanie unit 187 Asst. household goods, Moginn, Daniel unit 094 Asst. household goods, Sokoloski, Sean unit A052 Asst. household goods, Grimsshaw, John unit A026 Asst. household goods, Korman, David unit 504 Asst. household goods, Storage Rentals of America, 1280 Hopmeadow, Simsbury, CT, 06070 Arzu, Daisy Janet unit 0331 Boxes, Bag, Totes, Household Goods, Arzu, Daisy Janet unit 0928 Boxes, Totes, Furniture, TVs, Appliances, Household Goods; Storage Rentals of America, 2 Commerce Dr., Columbia, CT, 06237 Hancock, Cassandra unit 100 Boxes, Totes, Tools, Furniture, Electronics, Appliances, Household Goods, Toys, Lavioie Sittnick, Elizabeth Marie unit 211 Tool Boxes, Tires, Carpenter, Elijah unit 258 Framed Pictures, Furniture, Ouellette, Joshua unit 508 Asst. household goods, Storage Rentals of America, 610 Pigeon Hill Rd, Bloomfield, CT, 06002 McCormick, Shaun unit C122 Asst. household goods, Hosein, Jennifer unit D159 Asst. household goods, Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
3/11 & 3/18/22 7:15:2197

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID HILL CENTRAL REVITALIZATION - PHASE 1

Enterprise Builders Inc. ("EBI"), acting as General Contractor for Westmount Development, will receive qualified subcontractor proposals for the work associated with the project known as Hill Central Revitalization - Phase 1 (the "Project"). Bids shall be received via e-mail at bids@enterbuilders.com, on or before 3:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Bid bonds and Payment & Performance Bonds are not required.

The Work includes the construction of 64 Passive House Institute US certified residential units arranged in 7 townhouse style buildings and 1 garden apartment including related site development and building demolition. The project will be constructed in 2 stages.

Available bid packages include: Building Demolition and Abatement (Phase 1 and Phase 2), Temporary Fencing, Sitework, Paving, Permanent Fencing, Final Grading, Landscaping, Site Concrete, Concrete, Gypsum Cement Underlayment, Masonry, Steel, Rough Carpentry, Finish Carpentry/Casework, Wood Stairs, Siding, Air Sealing and Thermal Insulation, Asphalt Shingle Roofing, Gutters and Downspouts, Membrane Roofing, Waterproofing, EIFS, Fireproofing, Doors/Frames/Hardware, Glazing/Auto Entry Operators, New Passive House Windows, Drywall, Tile, Resilient Flooring, Carpet, Painting, Signage, Toilet Accessories, Postal Specialties, Fire Protection Specialties, Residential Appliances, Window Treatments, Residential Casework and Countertops, Elevator, Fire Suppression, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, and Solar. Bid package instructions and forms will be issued via addendum. Drawings can be viewed free of charge via iSafL. Please reach out to the EBI contact below to request an invitation to bid. Documents may also be viewed at EBI's office, 46 Shepard Drive, Newington, CT (8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F) where a disc with all documents may be obtained free of charge. This project is taxable on new construction. This project is State and Federally funded, and Residential Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates apply.

This contract is subject to State and local, state-side and contract compliance requirements.

For RFI's and all other questions, please contact Justin Caporiccio at jcaporiccio@enterbuilders.com or by phone (860) 466-5104. All subcontractor bids must be submitted to bids@enterbuilders.com. The Owner and EBI reserve the rights to accept any, all, or any part of bids; to reject any, all, or any part of bids; to waive any non-material deficiencies in bid responses, to waive minor inconsistencies; and to award the bid that in its judgment will be in the best interests of the Owner.

EBI is an Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer. Section 3, Veteran-owned and Small/Minority/Women's business Enterprises are encouraged to participate.
3/18, 3/19/2022 7:17:2056

Legal Notice Request for Proposals Automated Work Zone Speed Control Design-Build Pilot Project

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage a contracting firm to provide services related to Automated Work Zone Speed Control pilot project. More detailed information regarding this project can be found at: https://webprocure.perfect.com/wp-web-public/#/bidboard/bid/98540?customerid=51 Connecticut Department of Transportation An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
3/17-4/1/2022 7:17:1086

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 70 E Main St, Stratford, CT 06614, March 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Josue Alfaro, 1082, Painters Equipment, Diana York, 5278, Two Couches and Plastic bins. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
3/11, 3/18/2022 7:16:6733

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Housing Authority of the City of Middletown (MHA) is seeking sealed bids for: Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades at Monarca Place, Middletown, CT 06457

Bid Opening date and time at the MHA, 40 Broad Street, Middletown, CT 06457 Thursday April 14, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. All bids will be opened remotely via zoom and read aloud.

The work of the contract includes but is not limited to: Natural gas service & distribution, boiler & hot water heater replacement, electrical service modification, and installation of new emergency generator.

Site review by all bidders will be on Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 10:00 am. Meet at Monarca Place, 1325 Randolph Road Middletown CT 06457.

Contract Documents including plans & specifications will be available on Wednesday March 16, 2022. They can be viewed on-line and purchased from Advanced Reprographics. Visit http://www.advanced-planroom.com.

Note: Addenda to this bid will be issued via email. Contractors intending to bid must be registered on the Advanced Reprographics Planholder's list to receive direct email of all addenda.

5% Bid Security and 100% Performance/ Payment Bonds required.

Bidders will note requirements of minimum wage rates, nondiscrimination/equal opportunity rules (Executive Order 11246), Section 3, and related provisions in the General Conditions.

Complete bidding requirements are noted in the Contract Documents.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of 90 days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Housing Authority.

The Housing Authority of the City of Middletown is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer and conducts its business in accordance with all Federal, State and Local laws, regulations, and guidelines. Section 3, Small, Minority, Women Business Enterprises and Disabled are encouraged to participate in this process.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

William A. Vasiliou
Executive Director
3/11, 3/18/2022 7:16:7163

U-Haul Moving and Storage Company of New Britain, will sell household and personal items, contained in the following storage rooms due to unpaid storage fees on Monday, March 28th, 2022.

Sharon Whitehead	Unit	2303
NDea Forde	Unit	1111
Jacqueline Morales	Unit	1310
JALEN SHAW	Unit	2207
Christopher Platt	Unit	2315

Contents to be sold on the premises of 900 west Main Street, New Britain, CT 06052 on Monday, March 28th, 2022 on Storageauctions.com and close out at 10:00AM. Purchases to be paid for at the time of purchase, a \$100.00 CREDIT OR DEBIT ONLY deposit will be needed on EACH room purchased. U-HAUL reserves the right to bid or purchase any lot or space. Auction service provided by www.storageauctions.com Absolutely NO U-Haul Storage customers, or their family or friends on their behalf, whose units are listed in auction, may participate in any auction proceedings. You MUST contact Marketing Company Storage Manager, Joy St. Pierre, for an appointment to purchase any units won in auction. All persons will be turned away without an appointment. Contact Joy St. Pierre with any questions or concerns at Joy_StPierre@uhaul.com
3/17, 3/18/2022 7:17:0145

LEGAL NOTICE

The North Central Area Agency on Aging, Inc. requests proposals for social service programs that serve people 60 years and older in North Central Connecticut under Title III of the Older Americans Act and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The project period for proposals being solicited will run from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS EXTENDED TO APRIL 1, 2022 by 11:59PM Eastern Standard Time. Any proprietary, nonprofit, or public agency may apply. For further information check NCAAA's website (www.ncaaac.org/funding) or contact Crystal Bailey at 860-724-6443 ext.246 or crystal.bailey@ncaaac.org.
3/18/2022 7:17:1928

TOWN OF ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON-CALL SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR GALVANIZED STEEL CHAIN LINK FENCES

March 18, 2022

Sealed proposals for the services named above will be received at the Office of the Director of Finance until 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2022. Thereafter, proposals will be opened in public and read aloud or opened and read aloud pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders. Responses received after this time will not be accepted.

Specifications and proposal documents may be obtained from the Office of the Director of Public Works, Stanley E. Jablonski DPW Complex, 40 Moody Road, Enfield, CT 06082, telephone number (860) 763 7599 or the Town's website, www.enfield-ct.gov.

The Town of Enfield reserves the right to accept or reject any, all, or any part of proposals, to waive formalities or informalities and to award the proposal deemed to be in the best interests of the Town.

John A. Wilcox, Director of Finance
EOE/AA
3/18/2022 7:17:1947

Notice of Republican Caucus

To enrolled members of the Republican Party of New Hartford, Connecticut, Pursuant to the Rules of the Republican Party & State Election Laws, you are hereby notified that a Caucus will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center, 3rd floor of New Hartford Town Hall, 530 Main Street. The purpose of the Caucus is to Secure Delegates to attend the CT State, Congressional, State Senate, State House and Judge of Probate Conventions in May and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said Caucus.

Dated at New Hartford, Connecticut
March 15, 2022
Greg O'Brien, Chair
New Hartford Republican Town Committee
3/18/2022 7:17:2160

TOWN OF EAST GRANBY NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special Town Meeting of the Town of East Granby, Connecticut will be held at the Senior/Community Center on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 7:00 pm for the following purposes: 1. To elect a moderator. 2. To consider and act upon the appropriation of sum not to exceed \$130,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund to purchase a pumper truck as recommended by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. Any unexpended funds are to be returned to the Capital Fund. 3. To consider and act upon the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$85,000 from the Capital Non-Recurring Fund to purchase a tower ladder truck as recommended by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. Any unexpended funds are to be returned to the Capital Fund. Dated in East Granby Connecticut this 16th day of March, 2022
Eden Wimpfheimer, First Selectwoman
Joe Doering, Selectman
Steven Hall, Selectman
Christine Gallagher, Town Clerk
3/18/2022 7:17:1990

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*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon George M. Martin, Jr. Winifred M. Zembower	Hartford Robert E. Hatten, Sr. Kang S. Yi
Berlin Mary Atheneos Immacolata Tropea	Manchester Anthony M Garofalo Lynn Gierman
Bristol Beverly A. Ellsmore Harrison J. Mckinstry, III Norman R. Swanson	Marlborough Norman R. Swanson
Canton George M. Martin, Jr.	Middletown Kang S. Yi
East Granby Eileen Guarco	New Britain Immacolata Tropea
Enfield Eugene A. Berube	Out of State William A. Johnson
Farmington William A. Johnson William H Sens	Simsbury Winifred M. Zembower
Granby Eileen Guarco	Suffield Fredrick H. Ardery, III
	Torrington Beverly A. Ellsmore
	West Hartford William H Sens
	Wethersfield Fredrick H. Ardery, III

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Sens, William H



William “Bill” Herman Sens died peacefully just shy of his 99th birthday on June 30, 2020 in Camden, NJ. He was born on July 17, 1921, to Leolyn Clark Smith and Ralph Otto Sens in Hackensack, NJ. Bill grew up in Buffalo, NY along with his two younger brothers, Ralph and Franklin. After the early death of his father, Bill and his family moved back to the Hackensack area. He put himself through college and graduated at the top of his class from Cornell University in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. During his high school years, he had met Jeannette “Jayne” Walo. The two were married on November 26, 1943. He and Jayne settled in Farmington, CT in a home he and his brother Franklin built. Their three children, Jeffrey, Leolyn and Michelle, were raised in this home on South Road. He was a devoted husband and father.

Bill’s children have many fond memories of him. He always owned stick shift convertibles, and during the summers, he loved zipping around town with the top down. He didn’t have to worry about his hair since he always had a buzz cut, well before and well after it was fashionable. His children enjoyed teasing him about this, especially in the seventies. He was a good sport, never complained and had a wonderful, kind disposition. Always busy, he loved to garden, build furniture, play bridge, read, listen to classical music, play ping pong, travel and host barbecues. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed a variety of sports; tennis, badminton, bicycling, jogging, swimming, and hiking. He even built his own sailboat, a Sailfish, which was enjoyed by the family during annual summer vacations at Cape Cod, Lake Sebago, and the Connecticut shore.

Skiing was by far Bill’s favorite sport. He learned to ski at the age of 38 along with his children at Springfield Ski Club MA and Jay Peak VT. It would not be a surprise to his children to be awakened at 4:00am to head up to a ski area to catch the first chair, regardless of weather conditions—negative wind chill factors were never a deterrent. After a ski vacation in Aspen, CO in 1966, he decided he would eventually retire there. He skied the Aspen slopes well into his eighties.

Bill also was instrumental in forming the Grace Congregational Church in Farmington, CT in 1964. For many years, he was an active member, teaching Sunday school, serving as a deacon and hosting the annual summer picnic at his home.

For over 35 years, Bill was employed by Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Co., a division of United Technologies at the time, located in East Hartford, CT. He rose to the positions of Chief Engineer and Manager. While there, United Technologies presented him with its most prestigious corporate award, the George Mead Award for outstanding achievement in engineering, for his significant contribution to the development of jet engine thrust reversal.

Bill took early retirement at age 60. Shortly thereafter, Jayne died at the young age of 58. In 1982, he married Charlotte “Char” Whitley and moved to Aspen. He loved Aspen and enjoyed 15 years with Char in his beloved Mountain Valley home with a beautiful view of Independence Pass. After Char’s death, he married Olga Angilella in 1998. Due to health issues, they moved in 2012 to Westmont, NJ where he spent his final years.

Bill was predeceased by his first two wives, Jayne and Char, and brother Franklin Sens, MD. He was survived by his third wife Olga; brother Ralph Sens; children Jeffrey Stuart Sens, Leolyn Sens Wood, and Michelle Sens Novo; grandchildren Meghan Lee Wood, Christopher Cabot Wood, Bryce Randle Sens, Alexandria Novo Elias, and Jennifer Shirley Novo; and great-grandchild Cecily Pepper Ryan.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Tropea, Immacolata (Gulli)



Immacolata (Gulli) Tropea, 80 of New Britain, widow of Nicola Tropea, entered into eternal rest surrounded by her loving family on March 17, 2022. Immacolata was born in Chiaravalle Centrale, Calabria, Italy and was the daughter of the late Giuseppe and Raffela (Chiera) Gulli. She was a resident of New Britain for 47 years and was a faithful member of St. Ann Church and the Sacred Heart Society. Immacolata had a great love for her children, grandchildren and great granddaughter. She is survived by her three loving sons and daughters-in-law, Gregory and Betti-Jean of Berlin, Joseph and AnnaMaria of Avon, Antonio and Tina of Berlin; two sisters, Caterina Delfino and Liberata Iozzo; two brothers Peter and his wife Maria Gulli, Giuseppe and his wife Sally Gulli; seven grandchildren, Nicholas, Domenic, Fabrizio, Bettina, Briana, Massimo and Luca; one great granddaughter, Sabrina; and several loving nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her sister Prudenza and brother Domenic. Funeral services will be held on Monday March 21, 2022 at 10 am at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home, 411 South Main St., New Britain followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 am at St. Ann Church, St. Joachim Parish, 101 North St., New Britain. Entombment will be in St. Mary Cemetery. Calling hours will be on Sunday March 20th from 2 pm to 5 pm at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home. Please share a memory of Immacolata with the family in the online guest book @ www.ericksonhansen.com

ERICKSON-HANSEN

New Britain

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Guarco, Eileen (Kelly)



Eileen (Kelly) Guarco, 87, of East Granby, beloved wife for 65 years of Michael Bruno Guarco, Sr., passed away peacefully on Monday, March 14, 2022, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Pittsfield, MA on June 30, 1934, daughter of the late Vincent Emmett and Blanche (Cowens) Kelly, she was raised in Springfield, MA and was a graduate of Cathedral High School, Class of 1952. Eileen’s father, a professional pianist, passed away when she was two and she was raised by her mother and grandmother. After high school, Eileen continued her education at Elms College where she majored in education. Eileen loved languages and studying different cultures and also studied, Spanish, French, and Latin. Being multilingual, Eileen loved traveling and always looked forward to her next trip abroad. While she was at Elms College, Eileen attended a square dance at the Bishop O’Leary Social Center where she met Michael Guarco. The young couple married in 1957 and moved to Granby. Eileen worked as a teacher at Southwick Elementary School and after starting a family she left to help her husband with his oil business as a bookkeeper. Eileen loved her family, her pets, her community, and her church. She bowled with her husband for many years at Simsbury Lanes and enjoyed going to concerts, musicals, and plays. She loved to travel and took many memorable trips including a trip to Ireland for her 80th birthday, a family vacation to Monte Carlo, and many trips to Italy to visit her husband’s family. Most of all, Eileen loved hosting her family and friends for get togethers at her home. She loved decorating for every holiday and enjoyed spending winters at her home in Venice, FL and summers at her cottage on Cape Cod in Hyannis, MA. Eileen loved all animals but especially loved her cats, Fluffy, Romeo I, Romeo II, and Scooter. A devout Catholic throughout her life, she was a member of St. Therese Parish in Granby and attended Mass at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, FL and at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Hyannis, MA. Besides her husband, she leaves five children, Michael Guarco, Jr. and his wife Judy, Alan Guarco, Mary Anne Guarco, Brian Guarco and his wife Anne, and John Guarco and his wife Karen all of Granby; five grandchildren, Anna Guarco of Granby, Peter Guarco and his wife Hannah of Burlington, VT, Lila Guarco and her husband Stephen Hoppi, Jr. of East Hartland, Briana Watson and her husband Nicholas of Granby, and Nicholette Guarco of Granby; six great-grandchildren, Brodie and Isabella Cheney, John and Cella Guarco, Stephen Hoppi, III, and Vincenzo Watson; her sister-in-law, Dorina Konopka of Washington, DC; her nephew, David A. Guarco and his wife Jewels of Granby; two special cousins, Ellen Guarco of Hartford, CT and Carl Guarco of Granby, CT; and numerous cousins in the Greater Springfield, MA area and she looked forward to the birth of another great grand son in August. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a grandson, Michael Bruno Guarco, III. Her family will receive friends on Sunday, March 20, 3-6 p.m., at the Hayes-Huling & Carmon Funeral Home, 364 Salmon Brook St., Granby. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Monday, March 21, 11 a.m., at St. Therese Parish, 120 West Granby Rd. (Route 20), Granby. Burial will follow in Granby Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Granby Ambulance Association, 1 Pegville Rd., Granby, CT 06035. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

McKinstry III, Harrison J.



It is with heartfelt sorrow that we announce the passing of Harrison J. “Mac” McKinstry III. The Lord called him to his Kingdom on (Sunday) March 13, 2022. Son of the late Harrison (“Harry”) and Blanche (Boyce) McKinstry, he was born on April 23, 1948 and was a lifelong resident of Bristol. He was a member of St. Joseph Church. Mac is survived by his wife and the love of his life, Janet (Pisarski) McKinstry, and would have celebrated 56 years of marriage next week. He is also survived by his sons Harrison J. McKinstry IV (Kathleen) and Patrick McKinstry (Jeri); his daughter Amy Castolene; his sisters Maureen Gauvin and Kim McKinstry; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Mary Jane Pisarski; and several nieces and nephews.

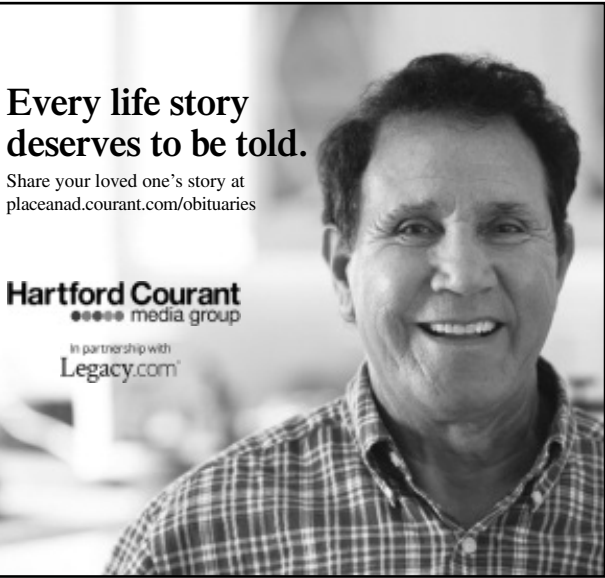
Mac proudly served our country in the United States Navy aboard the USS Independence (CV-62) and the Army National Guard, from both of which he was honorably discharged. He worked as a Skilled Trades Sheet Metal Worker at New Departure Hyatt in Bristol and Sandusky, Ohio, retiring after 30 years of service. Upon retirement he worked at New Horizons and Countryside Manor for several years before officially retiring. Mac was a loving husband and father who always put the interests of his family first and foremost. He enjoyed planning annual vacations to the shore, supervising the Christmas tree trimming (LOL), feeding stray cats, squirrels, and birds. He was a hard worker and provider, showing his family to have pride in their work. The family would like to thank Dr. Jack Adler and his entire staff for their compassionate care over the years.

“Goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation.” – Author Unknown Relatives and friends are invited to call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, at 9AM on (Monday) March 21, 2022 with a funeral service being held at 10:30AM. Burial with Military Honors will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. For online condolences and directions, please visit Mac’s memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com



Funk’s Since 1865
www.FunkFuneralHome.com

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Atheneos, Mary (Agiakatiska)

Mary (Agiakatiska) Atheneos entered into the kingdom of Heaven on Monday, March 14, 2022. She was born on March 3, 1924 in Plomari, Lesvos, Greece. Mary met her husband Peter Atheneos after being brought together by their parents. They married outdoors surrounded by family, friends, the Aegean Sea and the beautiful forest of olive trees. Peter and Mary Returned to the United States and started a life together, raising three sons. She started working for the First National Bakery for 20 years while taking care of her three sons and husband. Mom once told me, she was under the impression that once in the United States she would live in a nice home and take care of her three boys and husband, if she knew that she would work for 20 years in a bakery she would have stayed in Greece (with a smile). Mary was a proud woman, brave, smart, beautiful, with a peaceful soul. She taught us to be honest, fair, and kind to everyone (she also taught us to cook, sew, and iron). Mom sacrificed her life for her husband and children. Mom loved growing things and had a garden (a very big garden) up until she was 92 years old, planting, growing, harvesting and giving her famous tomatoes to her friends and family. I once came over to see her and she was pushing a wheelbarrow of dirt, at the age of 92 years old. She was never afraid of anything. Mary leaves behind her three sons; Jim Atheneos and wife Loretta of Farmington, John Atheneos of Newington and George Atheneos and wife Deborah of Nashville, Tennessee. Her grandchildren Courtney Fowlkes of Charlotte, North Carolina, Lisa Boyajian and Husband Tyler of Ashville North Carolina, Joshua Atheneos of Miami, Florida and Jim Atheneos Jr. of Farmington, as well as a sister, Irene Lagikatsis of Plomari, Lesvos, Greece.

A very special “Thank You” to all the staff at the Southington Care Center who took outstanding care of our mom. Donna Malichi, who answered all of our questions with grace and honesty, APRNs Monica Hayes and Kelly, nurses Patty, Margaret, Doris and Gina who did a great job, scheduling rides and arranging doctor appointments. A very special heat-felt “Thank You” to all the CNAs and line staff, they are the backbone of healthcare, truly, making a difference in the lives of patients and families. There will be no calling hours and services are private. To leave condolences for the family, please visit Farleysullivan.com

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Johnson, William A.



William A. “Bill” Johnson of Rotunda West, FL, died peacefully on Thursday March 10, 2022, at Englewood Hospice House, Port Charlotte, FL, with his wife of 66 years, Sylvia (Kay) Johnson by his side. Bill was born May 3, 1936, in Bridgeport, CT to the late Edward Johnson and Ebba (Kask) Johnson. He lived in

many CT towns throughout his youth and attended Hartford High School before settling in Canton, CT where he met his wife Sylvia. He was the owner/operator of Johnson’s Cleaning Service for 20 years and co-owner of Karpet Klean. His greatest joy was spending time with his friends and family and engaging in many activities including riding snowmobiles, camping, motorcycling, boating, and bowling. One of his great loves was listening to music, especially country western and live bands, and playing cards with friends. He enjoyed woodworking and was a talented self-taught carpenter, adding rooms to his homes, building sheds, cabinets, and decks, and creating birdhouses. After moving from Canton, he spent 10 years in S. Chatham, MA and then traveled across the country in an RV for two years with his wife before retiring to FL. Bill was always ready for a new adventure and a good laugh. He will be remembered for his gentle spirit, quiet demeanor, and his beautiful blue eyes.

Left behind to celebrate his life are his son, Allen Johnson and wife Becky (Gaynor) Johnson of Collinsville, CT, his daughter Cynthia (Johnson) Gallagher and husband Scott Johnston of Torrington, CT, and his grandson, Mackenzie Johnson of Avon, CT. Bill is also survived by his nephew Mark Brayman and two nieces Susan (Brayman) Pinette and Amy (Brayman) Martin, as well as many relatives and loyal friends. Bill was preceded in death by his sister Dorothy Brayman and two brothers, Robert Johnson and Charles Johnson. A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held in Canton, CT this summer at a date and place to be determined. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in his name to the Canton Community Baptist Church, PO Box 369, Canton, CT 06019.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Zembower, Winifred M.Shockley



Winifred M. (Shockley) Barnett Zembower, 92, of Avon, wife of the late William Zembower, passed away Saturday, March 12, 2022. Born in Baltimore, daughter of the late William and Elmira (Green) Shockley, she was raised in Baltimore and moved to Hartford in 1945. She married the late Stanley Barnett and they lived in Bloomfield and Avon. She was employed by the former Fitzgerald Food Market in Avon. She moved to Maryland in 1970 and was employed as a property manager for a large apartment complex. She moved to Tariffville when she married William Zembower who passed away in 1995. She lived in Simsbury until 2019. She was a clown, trained by Ringling Brothers, and was a member of Greater Hartford Alley #107 of the Clowns of America. Using the name “Bingo” she performed for nursing homes, youth groups, and local birthday parties. She enjoyed deep sea fishing, cooking and was active when living at Belden Forest Court in Simsbury where she was considered “the Mayor”. Winifred leaves her son Scott Barnett and his wife Kris of Simsbury; her daughter Brenda Transue and her husband Tom of Avon; her grandchildren Mike Transue and his wife Lisa, Kevin Transue and his wife Jennifer, Connor Barnett and his fiancé Janae Garofalo, and Meaghan Barnett; great-grandchildren Delanie, Colin, and Ethan Transue; and a beloved nephew Phil Stephenson. Besides her parents and husband William, she was predeceased by her former husband Stanley Barnett, her brother Edward Olson, and her sister Ruth Stephenson. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, May 21, 2022, 2 PM at the Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main Street, Avon. A reception will follow the service in the fellowship hall at the Church. Burial will be at the family’s convenience in Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to CT Foodshare, 450 Woodland Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002. The Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center of Avon is caring for the arrangements. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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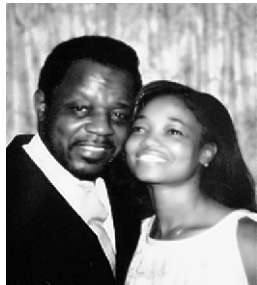
OBITUARIES

Gierman, Lynn (Kozikowski)

Lynn (Kozikowski) Gierman, 69, of Killingworth and formerly of Madison died Friday, March 11, 2022 at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born in Manchester, CT on July 1, 1952, she was the daughter of Alexander and Josephine Kozikowski. Lynn earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Emmanuel College in Boston. She worked in social service agencies in Connecticut and California before her employment with American Airlines as an international flight attendant. Lynn retired after 28 years of service. She enjoyed traveling the world, reading, and spending time with her close friends, the "Battalion". Her latest endeavor was learning to play the banjo. Lynn is survived by her sister, Ann Sorensen (Curtis), and her nephew, Mark Sorensen. In addition to her parents, Lynn was also predeceased by her brother Paul Kozikowski (February 2022). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 10:00am in St. Lawrence Church, 7 Hemlock Drive, Killingworth. Burial will follow in West Cemetery, Madison. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Helping Hands Food Pantry, Killingworth. To sign the online guest book visit www.swanfuneral-homemadison.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hatten Sr., Robert Elliott



Robert Elliott Hatten, Sr. was also known as Bobby "Soul Man" Hatten to those who knew him. He was born on January 3, 1936, to Mr. Jessie Hatten and Luvenia Mitchell-Sterling. He departed this life on January 24, 2022. He grew up in the Bellevue Square Housing project in Hartford (#B-SquareNation). Bobby was very well-known and respected in the community. He started his career in the United States Army serving in the Korean War Conflict as a Cook, Paratrooper and Sergeant stationed in Germany. He met his first wife Ms. Karola Smith there, married, and had four children Elisabeth, Robert, Jr., Charles, and Jessica. Bobby became one of the top disc jockeys, DJ at WKND1480AM when he spun under the name Bobby "Soul Man" Hatten doing his thang in the late 60s early to mid-70s. He opened every show to the song Sam & Dave's "Soul Man". He also worked at Dunbar Security where he segued into the Department of Corrections as a Corrections Officer, earned his Bachelor's degree, and was promoted to Lieutenant and retired a Captain 35 years later where he was a force to be reckoned with. He became a Special Deputy Sheriff for 6 years in the West Hartford Court system and retired a second time. Bobby was also a member of the American Legion Post 142 where he served as Lt. Commander and finally Commander where he took his position very serious. Bobby was survived by his second beautiful, faithful, loving wife Ruthie Belle Bland-Hatten of Hartford and their children James, Sr., Mark, Deborah, and Bobby. His daughters: First born Elisabeth Thurman (Ivory), and their children Elijah and Natasha, Maryland; Jessica Jones (Robert) and their children Jere and Jarel; Shelley Sailor-Lindsey (Stephen), East Hartford and her children Andre and Chara; Deborah Gaston (Bland-Hatten), Hartford and her children Dwayne and Andre, Jr.; Michelle Laverne Gratic (Darryl), and their children Chris, Dyrell, Lamara, Frederick and Juwan, Hartford; and Thailyn Simpson (Wade), Hartford and their children Aubrey, Ashley, and Du-Shawne. His sons: Robert Hatten, Jr. and Charles Hatten, Philadelphia; James Bland, Sr., Hartford, and his children Terrance, James, Jr., and Taylah; Mark Bland, Sr., Massachusetts and his children Mark, Jr. and Emoni; Bobby Hatten (Stephanie), Georgia and their children, Jalyn, Kendre and Natajah; Eric Anderson, Hartford and his daughter Laurny and several family and friends. Bobby was predeceased by his parents, Mr. Jessie Hatten and Mrs. Luvenia Mitchell-Sterling, Hartford, his in-laws Mr. James and Mrs. Lula Bland, Georgia, his brothers Nathaniel "Jack" Hatten, Wilbert "TBoe" Williams, his daughter Jessica Jones, and his son James "J.B." Bland, Sr.

Funeral services will be held 10:30am on Friday March 18, 2022, at the Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Road, Windsor. The family will receive friends prior from 9:00am-10:30am. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Yi, Kang Sin

SEYMOUR, CT – Kang Sin Yi, 78, died March 13, 2022, at Griffin Hospital. He was born November 5th, 1943, in Seoul Korea, the son of Suk Won Yi and Soon Yi.

Kang Sin served in the Korean Army as an agent with the Central Intelligence Division in 1965. Upon discharge of the Korean army in 1968, Kang Sin moved to the United States residing in Hartford, CT.

Upon graduating from the University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and an associate's degree in Electronic Technology, he briefly worked at Royal Typewriter before embarking in his career with OSHA in 1976. Kang Sin worked in the Wichita, KS office prior to being transferred to the Harford, CT office where he ultimately retired as Assistant Area Director, December 30th, 2021.

In addition to his parents, Kang Sin was predeceased by his eldest sister, Kang Sun of Miami FL, his younger brother, Kang Ho of CT, and his youngest daughter Jessica Yi of Hartford, CT, who passed away tragically in a car accident in 2016.

Kang Sin is survived by his loving daughters Alicia Love of NC, and Liana Yi of CT. He is also survived by his sister Kang Min of NH, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Of those nieces and nephews closest to him - Kenny & Katie Kim of NY, Ellain Munne of FL, Roy Yun & Deb Fulk of NY, Raymond & Yuuko Yun of WA, and Jean & James Meuse of NH. Lastly, he is survived by his loving and supportive co-worker family – in particular, his close friend and supervisor, Steve Biasi of the Bridgeport office.

A service of remembrance will be held between 11am and 1pm, Saturday, March 19th at Howard K. Hill Funeral Services in New Haven, CT.

For those who wish to remember Kang Sin in a special way, we ask that donations be made in his name to Mun Su Sa Buddhist Temple, 231 Salem Street, Wakefield MA., 01880.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Ardery, III, Fredrick H.

Fredrick 'Fred' Herbert Ardery, III, 75, of Southwick and formerly of Wethersfield, passed peacefully on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 surrounded by his loving family. Born in Hartford, on June 17, 1946; son of the late Frederick Jr., and Virginia (Gibson) Ardery. Fred was the proud owner and operator of Ardery Chevrolet in Windsor for many years. He loved soccer and enjoyed organizing and coaching youth soccer. Fred was also active with Pine Acres Swimming in Wethersfield. Most recently Fred delivered Meals on Wheels with Suffield Community Aid for the past 16 years. Fred is survived by his beloved wife of 29 years, Patricia Ardery; son Scott Ardery and his wife Jennifer, daughter Kristine Ferrara and her husband Lennard; stepsons Christopher Anton and his wife Theresa and Jeffrey Anton and his wife Emily, six grandchildren Teagan Ardery, Crosby, Davis, Marshall, Annabelle, and Adeline Anton, and former wife Christine. The Funeral Services will be on Wednesday, March 23 with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00AM in Our Lady of the Lake Church, Southwick. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Hill St. Suffield. Friends may call at The Heritage Funeral Home 1240 Mountain Road, West Suffield, on Tuesday March 22, from 4:00-6:00PM. Memorial donations may be made to Suffield Community Aid: 460 South Street, Suffield, CT 06078. Online condolences please visit: www.SuffieldFuneralHome.com

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Garofalo, Anthony M



Anthony "Sonny" Garofalo of Manchester passed away peacefully on March 13, 2022. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 59 years, Mary "Chickie" Garofalo, and his parents Rosario "Ray" and Mary Boschello Garofalo. Anthony is survived by his sisters, Angela Blair and Linda Koschwitz; his daughter, Catherine Long, her husband Frank, and their children Kevin, Brandon, Joshua, and Brittany; his grandson, Frank Provencher, his partner Kacie Dolloff, and son Cadyn; his son Stephen Garofalo and his partner Jennifer Wright; and his son Michael Garofalo, his wife Shonni Enelow, and their son Raphael. Growing up in Greenwich, Anthony raced pigeons, cars, and worked in the family grocery store. After serving in the Marines, he met his wife and started both a family and a successful refuse removal company. The two went hand-in-hand, as he brought many relatives, including his oldest son, into the business. Anthony and Mary later owned an egg farm, providing countless family stories. And in retirement, he was a jack-of-all trades at St. Bridget Parish. In all things, he brought an incredible work ethic, sharp sense of humor, selfless generosity, and huge heart. A memorial Mass will be offered at St Bridget Church in Manchester April 9 at 10 AM. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut, Advocacy Avengers.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Martin, Jr., George Michael

George Michael "Mike" Martin, Jr. of Canton, CT, passed away, unexpectedly, on March 11, 2022 after a recent surgery. Calling hours will be held on Monday, March 21st from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Vincent Funeral Home, 120 Albany Turnpike in Canton. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 22nd at the Church of Saint Ann, 289 Arch Road in Avon. Please visit Mike's Book of Memories at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes and full obituary.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Swanson, Norman R.

Norman R. Swanson, 81, of Marlborough, CT, passed away on Friday, February 25, 2022. Norman was born on September 26, 1940, son of the late Alfred and Minnie (Avery) Swanson. Youngest of 7, he grew up with his brothers and sisters in Forestville. Norman worked at Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford, for over 20 years as a gauge inspector before retiring in 2000. Norman was the loving husband of Janet (Hein) Swanson for over 57 years. Together they traveled to over 20 NCAA Final Four UConn Women's Basketball games, whether UConn was in it or not. It was always their big trip of the year. Norman was an avid Red Sox and N.Y. Giant fan. He was a member of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee for many years. While working at Pratt & Whitney, Norman was a member of the machinists Local 1746, where he was on different committees. Norman is survived by his wife, Janet (Hein) Swanson; his best friend, Rhett, his cat who looks for him every day; and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. He also leaves his friend Joe La Bella, who he attended many UConn Women's Basketball and football games. He is predeceased by his brothers and sisters, Butch, Bill, and Ed Swanson, Edith (Swanson) Bilodeau, Doris (Swanson) Gustafson, and Evelyn (Swanson) Misluk. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 12:00PM at O'Brien Funeral Home, 24 Lincoln Avenue, Bristol. Calling hours will be prior to the service on Sunday, beginning at 10:30AM. Donations in Norman's memory may be made to the Protectors of Animals, 144 Main St., Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118. To leave an online message of condolence, or to share a memory or photo, please visit Norman's tribute page at www.O'Brien-FuneralHome.com



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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
STEPHEN P. SALVATORE



March 18, 1969 - December 5, 2019

God saw you getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you, and he whispered "Come To Me". Love, Mom and Dad Genevieve and Geno Sheryl and Joseph

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CONNECTICUT

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Woman's fiancé killed in Farmington

Their children were sleeping in their house; her brother faces a murder charge, police say

By Christine Dempsey and Kaitlin McCallum
Hartford Courant

A woman and her fiancé were in bed in their Farmington home just before 11 p.m. Wednesday when the woman's brother came into the room and allegedly fired three to four gunshots, according to a police incident report.

The woman allegedly heard her brother, Deondre Dominique Linder, 24, say, "I know what you did," before the shots were fired into the dark, the woman told police in an interview, the report said.

When the woman turned on the light, she found her fiancé, Jorge Tejada Camacho, 31, covered in blood. His eyes were open, she

said, but she knew he was dead.

Linder fled the house, allegedly taking Camacho's blue Volkswagen Passat and heading toward Interstate 84, police said. The woman called 911, bringing some officers to the Sunset Terrace home, while others worked to stop Linder as he headed for the highway.

Officers found Camacho in the bed with multiple gunshot wounds, police said. Police, firefighters and medics worked to save his life, but he was pronounced dead at Saint Francis Hospital at 12:09 a.m.

Minutes earlier, an officer spotted the victim's car heading east on Route 4, police said. Fellow Farmington officers were able to "stop the vehicle against the guardrail" as it got onto I-84 westbound and

pulled Linder from the car, according to the report. Linder, who was uninjured, was cooperative as police led him in handcuffs to a cruiser and he allegedly said, "I had a reason though," according to the report.

In an interview with police, the woman said she and her fiancé lived together with her brother and two children in the Sunset Terrace home in the Unionville section of Farmington, according to the report. The children were sleeping at the time of the shooting.

The woman told police she and Camacho are expecting a baby.

She told police Camacho had given Linder two weeks to find a job or move out.

Turn to Slaying, Page 2



Farmington and state police were investigating at the home where one man is dead and another under arrest after a shooting Wednesday night, police said. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

WELCOME HOME CEREMONY



CLOE POISSON / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Honoring the brave

Col. Charles Jaworski congratulates SFC Matthew Major, of Manchester, after awarding him deployment medals at a welcome home ceremony for the 1-102nd Infantry Battalion (Mountain) on Thursday at the State Armory in Hartford. Master Sgt. Benjamin Mager holds a tray of awards.

Three charged in cold case killing

Mother was slain in '05 by gunfire outside her home

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Three people have been charged with murder in the deadly shooting of a Hartford mother 17 years ago, according to the Chief State's Attorney's office.

A fourth person was charged with tampering with evidence and perjury in the 2005 killing of Dante Davis, prosecutors said.

Brandon Jones, 34; Shane Henriques, 35 and Maurice Snowden, 38, were charged with accessory to murder, the prosecutors said in a news release Thursday.

Victoria Harris, 33, who they said tried to throw off authorities by lying, was charged with perjury and tampering with physical evidence.

The three men were arrested between Jan. 4 and March 5; Harris was arrested in September and is the only one of the four who posted bail, court records show. Two of the three men charged with murder are being held on \$5 million. Snowden is not because he is serving 59 years for another North End murder in 2011.

According to court records, about 11:10 p.m. June 21, 2005, armed assailants opened



Davis

Turn to Cold case, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

BA.2 variant surges

Slight uptick in test positivity; hospitalizations dip

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's COVID-19 test positivity rate increased slightly over the past week, as new data suggested that the subvariant of omicron BA.2 is gaining ground in the state.

BA.2 — which first appeared in Connecticut in January — now makes up 59% of COVID-19 cases among outpatients tested by Yale New Haven Hospital, according to data from a lab at the Yale School of Public Health that tracks the spread of COVID-19 variants in Connecticut.

Nathan Grubaugh, an assistant professor of epidemiology who runs the lab, noted on Twitter Thursday that given the roughly week-long doubling rate of BA.2, his lab estimates that BA.2 will compose 95% of cases in Southern Connecticut by early April. In fact, Grubaugh said, BA.2 is "likely dominant, or near dominant, across Connecticut (not just southern CT)."



Vernon resident Jared Freeman, left, receives a COVID-19 vaccine boost from Vernon firefighter and EMT Chris Prue in December during a vaccination clinic run by the town of Vernon. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Experts in Connecticut have warned that BA.2 could drive a spike in COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks, as has already happened in parts of Europe. There are some factors that could mitigate a full-blown surge, however. While BA.2 is thought to be more infectious than the original omicron variant, it seems that, as of yet, it is not as deadly or as disruptive to the healthcare system.

Jordan Peccia, a professor of environmental engineering at Yale University who leads a team testing wastewater in Connecticut, noted, also on Twitter this week, that the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 in New Haven wastewater is beginning to increase again — but still remains roughly 40 times lower than it was during the most recent peak,

in January.

Despite the increase, Peccia said Thursday that he was "not overly concerned" about Connecticut's COVID-19 outlook. He pointed out that immunity to COVID-19, through vaccines and infections, is quite substantial in Connecticut and that BA.2 "really didn't take over" despite having been in the state for a few months. Additionally, warmer months — which, over the past two years, have aligned with declines in COVID-19 case loads and hospitalizations — are fast approaching.

"It looks like it's going up," he said of COVID-19 infections. "Is it going to be the big peak that we saw in December January, or is it going to be that slow burn that

Turn to Variant, Page 2

East Hartford residents call out school parking

Town seeks solutions for drop-off, pick-up safety

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

EAST HARTFORD — After taking office in November, one of the first complaints Mayor Mike Walsh heard from residents was about unsafe and illegal parking around public schools during drop-off and pick-up times.

Residents who live near schools have complained about property damage, traffic bottlenecks and being blocked in while parents line up for the first and last bells.

Walsh said the problem, which is particularly bad around the high school, middle school and Goodwin Elementary School, is chronic and vexing. Residents tell him their lawns are damaged and they can't back out of their driveways to get to work or appointments, Walsh said.

To increase awareness about the problem and field possible solutions, the town has launched a survey at easthartfordct.gov. The survey asks whether people who violate parking rules around schools should be fined; whether jersey barriers should be installed to prevent unsafe parking; or whether the town and police should take no action. Respondents also are asked

to offer their own solutions. The survey will be available through the end of the month, Walsh said.

The best solution, Walsh said, would be for more students to use school buses.

School officials say traffic and parking around schools has become more challenging than years ago because more families are bringing their children to school.

"Unfortunately, schools and the surrounding streets are not built to handle that increased level of congestion," school officials said in a prepared statement. "To help mitigate these issues, we ask that East Hartford parents and guardians observe all traffic laws and parking regulations, drive slowly and consider using the school bus for transportation."

Police, school principals and crossing guards have all warned parents about unsafe parking, Walsh said. Recently, a property owner near Goodwin School got into an angry verbal exchange with a parent, he said, and officials do not want to see that kind of confrontation boil over.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

East Hartford man gets prison in drug trafficking case

Dominican Republic citizen also convicted on immigration charges

Courant staff report

A man who last resided in East Hartford was sentenced Wednesday to more than six years in prison for heroin and fentanyl trafficking, and immigration offenses, according to federal officials.

Angel DeJesus-Concepcion, 40, a citizen of the Dominican Republic, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Victor A. Bolden in Bridgeport to a total of 80 months in prison, according to federal officials.

The case arose after the Drug Enforcement Administration's Hartford Task Force started an investigation in October 2016 of an organization that was "trafficking large quantities of

heroin, fentanyl and other narcotics in Connecticut and western Massachusetts," federal authorities said in a statement, citing court documents and statements made in court.

"The investigation, which included court-authorized wiretaps, controlled purchases of narcotics and physical surveillance, revealed that members of the organization were receiving bulk quantities of heroin and fentanyl from out-of-state suppliers," federal authorities said in the statement. "They then stored, processed and packaged the heroin/fentanyl in multiple locations, including apartments located (on Collins Street) in Hartford where

some members of the organization also resided, and then distributed the drug in the Hartford area, and also the Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts area."

Further, a "significant amount of drug trafficking activity occurred at the Neighborhood Supermarket, located at 316 Farmington Avenue in Hartford, which was owned and operated by DeJesus-Concepcion's girlfriend, Gisel De La Cruz," federal authorities said in the statement. "Investigators made multiple controlled purchases of heroin and fentanyl from De La Cruz, DeJesus-Concepcion and other members of the drug trafficking organization in and around the Neighbor-

hood Supermarket."

DeJesus had previously been deported from the U.S. after a conviction for a federal narcotics offense, according to federal authorities. "The investigation revealed that De La Cruz paid \$20,000 to smuggle DeJesus-Concepcion back into the U.S. and, in December 2016, DeJesus-Concepcion illegally reentered the country using fake Venezuelan identification documents."

Authorities executed 12 search warrants in Connecticut and Massachusetts and seized approximately 10 kilograms of heroin and fentanyl during the investigation, "much of which was packaged for resale in

hundreds of thousands of bags," federal authorities said in the statement. "Investigators also seized numerous vials of Xylazine, which is a horse tranquilizer used by narcotics traffickers as a heroin additive. Seven firearms also were seized."

Fourteen individuals have been charged with various narcotics, firearms and immigration offenses as a result of the investigation, federal authorities said in the statement.

DeJesus-Concepcion has been detained since his arrest in 2017 and on Sept. 17, 2019, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin

and 40 grams or more of fentanyl, and one count of illegal reentry of a removed alien, federal authorities said in the statement.

De La Cruz pleaded guilty to related charges and has been sentenced, according to authorities.

The DEA's Hartford Task Force includes members from the DEA Hartford Resident Office, Connecticut State Police, and the Bristol, Hartford, East Hartford, Enfield, Manchester, New Britain, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, Windsor Locks and Willimantic police departments. Agencies assisting the investigation include the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Marshals Service and Connecticut State Police, according to authorities.

Warrant describes bloody scene
Marlborough woman was abducted from parking lot

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

An arrest warrant released Thursday details the alleged harrowing abduction of a Marlborough woman from a supermarket parking lot.

Kenneth Gordon, 20, of Love Lane in Hartford, and a 16-year-old were arrested recently in the case on charges that include assault, robbery and kidnapping, all in the first degree.

The warrant for Gordon's arrest begins with an injured woman screaming for help on the night of Sept. 11. The 64-year-old victim had allegedly been pulled out of her own car and dumped on Hummingbird Lane in Berlin at about 9 p.m. She was bleeding from head wounds and also had a broken leg and an acute kidney injury, state police Det. Frank A. Cuoco II wrote in the arrest warrant affidavit.

The woman told police she had returned to her 2014 Infiniti QX50 after shopping at the Big Y supermarket in her home town when two males wearing face coverings approached and demanded money. The victim resisted and her right femur was broken during the fight.

The battered woman said she asked the pair, "Why are you doing this to me?" and one of the males allegedly answered, "Because you're white and my mother is very ill," the warrant affidavit says.

Police have not answered questions about whether a hate crime charge will be filed in the case.

The victim said the robbers put a bag over her head and forced her into the rear seat at gunpoint, the warrant affidavit says. They traveled to multiple ATMs and ordered her to withdraw cash, allegedly striking her in the face and head with a handgun five or six times, Cuoco wrote in the affidavit.

"The suspects demanded money and jewelry multiple times and one stated he was going to kill her approximately ten times," he wrote in the affidavit.

After stopping a final time, they told her to get out of the car, but she could not move due to the broken leg, police said. One abductor got out, allegedly grabbed the victim from behind and pulled her out and onto the road. The thieves then allegedly set the \$18,000 vehicle on fire behind a nearby liquor store, police have said.

Investigators connected Gordon to the Acura TL that the abductors drove to Marlborough through surveillance video and a witness who said she had sold the car to him in August, the warrant says. After locating the unoccupied car on Sept. 14, police seized several items for testing. DNA from a drink container matched a buccal swab from Gordon, police said in the affidavit.

Police also gathered information from other police departments, video footage of suspects using the victim's credit card and evidence from Gordon's seized cellphone, the warrant says. Police allegedly found incriminating web searches on the phone, including "et abduction sentencing guidelines," the warrant says.

Gordon and the juvenile fled to Florida, police said. They were found and detained outside a Dollar General store in Deerfield Beach on Oct. 6, then taken back to Connecticut, police said.

In an interview with the Courant after their arrests, the victim's husband said he wants justice.

"We have to make sure the system punishes these [expletive] ... We don't want this to happen to anyone else," the man said.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jeavenworth@courant.com.

Man, 69, dies after being hit by garbage truck

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A 69-year-old man was killed Thursday morning when he was struck by a garbage truck in Hartford, police and fire officials said.

The man was hit by the truck about 6:15 a.m. in the area of 160 Brainard Road, near the intersection with Murphy Road in the South Meadows. Medics from Aetna Ambulance Service, with help from fire personnel, started CPR at the scene, and the man was taken to Hartford Hospital to be

treated for life-threatening injuries, District Fire Chief Mario Oquendo Jr. said.

The man was pronounced dead at the hospital. He was identified as Frank Paul of Brainard Road, police Lt. Aaron Boisvert said.

The truck driver stayed at the scene and cooperated with police, Boisvert said.

The police department's Crime Scene Division is investigating.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Variant

from Page 1

we saw earlier this fall with delta? It's hard to know, though we'll know more next week. We'll get some information about how steep that...will be."

[subhead]Cases and positivity rate[/subhead]

Connecticut on Thursday reported 2,178 COVID cases out of 86,196 tests administered in the past week, for a weekly positivity rate of 2.53%, a slight uptick from earlier in the week yet still significantly lower than earlier this year.

As designated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, only one of Connecticut's eight counties, Middlesex, is recording a "high" level of COVID-19 transmission. Four others (Fairfield, New Haven, New London and Litchfield) are recording "substantial" levels of transmission, while the remaining three (Hartford, Tolland and Windham) are recording "low" levels of transmission. Masking is not considered necessary in areas with "low" transmission.

As of Thursday, nine of Connecticut's 169 municipalities were in the state's "red alert" category, meaning they have averaged at least 15 daily

cases per 100,000 residents over the past week.

Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut had 100 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down 40 patients since last Friday.

Peccia, the environmental engineering professor at Yale, noted that wastewater data predicts hospitalizations, which lag by about a week. An uptick in wastewater concentration may indicate a coming increase in hospitalizations, he said.

"If it's going up, maybe we'll see eventually a little bump in hospitalizations," he said.

Officials say that many patients hospitalized with COVID-19 are "incidental" cases, meaning they were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival.

According to the state, 43% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are not fully vaccinated — a figure likely skewed by incidental cases. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients

with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reported 62 additional deaths over the past week on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,677.

The United States has now recorded 968,521 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 94.3% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those age 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 78.2% of all residents and 82.3% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 54.5% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.



Farmington and state police are investigating a homicide at a Farmington house. A man was fatally shot Wednesday night, police said. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Slaying

from Page 1

Kathleen C. Greider, superintendent of Farmington schools, said in a note to staff and parents that the children attend Farmington Public Schools and were not injured.

"Although children who attend the Farmington

schools were in the home at the time of the incident, the students are safe," Greider said. "This is a devastating tragedy and we plan to support the family in the coming hours, days and weeks. Please join me in holding one of our families in your hearts and thoughts at this time of unimaginable loss and sorrow."

Greider said the school

system does not plan to tell students about the homicide but will have counselors at each school because they may hear about it elsewhere.

"If students express feelings of anxiety, fear or worry, please know that we are here to support your child(ren)," she said.

Linder is charged with murder, criminal possession of a firearm by a convicted

felon, two counts of risk of injury to a child and reckless endangerment. The risk of injury charges stem from the fact children were in the house at the time, police said. He was held in lieu of \$1 million bail and arraigned in court Thursday.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Cold case

from Page 1

fire outside 131 Martin St., striking Davis, 21, in the head. Davis was with her boyfriend in front of their apartment building at the time; an article in The Hartford Courant says she was carrying a bottle of milk for her baby. She died at the hospital.

Authorities made the

arrests after an extensive investigation that included following up on dozens of tips, conducting numerous interviews and poring through cellphone records, in addition to convening an investigatory grand jury.

"The investigators in this case worked diligently to bring this case to a successful resolution," said Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney John F. Fahey, head of the

Cold Case Unit. "Ms. Davis was an innocent victim and for the past 17 years, detectives assigned to this case never forgot her and the family and friends she left behind. These recent arrests show the Cold Case Unit's continued commitment to work tirelessly to resolve each case that comes before us."

Besides cold case investigators, Fahey thanked the

Hartford State's Attorney's Office, the Hartford Police Department and the security division of the state Department of Correction for their commitment to the investigation.

He also thanked the U.S. Marshals Service for its help with the case.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT

MONTVILLE

School board scraps mascot

Town near tribe to change from ‘Indians’

Associated Press

MONTVILLE — A school board has voted to do away with the “Indians” name for athletic teams in Montville, where the neighboring Mohegan Tribe has offered to help pay for the expense of replacing logos and uniforms.

The town Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday night to remove the name. The school superintendent, Laurie Pallin, said she hopes the community sees the school system wants to stand together with the tribe in making the change.

“We don’t want the use of the Indian name to be a polarizing issue for the town or the tribe and we recognize that our use of this nickname is not a Montville issue but a much more global decision,” Pallin said.

The Indians name has adorned the schools’ black and orange athletic jerseys for decades but the Mohegans, the tribe that owns the Mohegan Sun casino, made it clear in recent years it would prefer a different nickname.

The tribe’s chief, Marilynn Malerba, said the tribe and the town have had a cooperative dialogue on mascot names.

“In our discussions with Montville, we made it clear that we appreciate and applaud any community seeking to be more sensitive to the history of American Indians. Montville has always been that community,” Malerba said.

Under a law that passed last year, Connecticut schools that use Native American nicknames and mascots can lose their share of slot machine revenue from the state’s two tribal-owned casinos — unless they have written consent from a state- or federally-recognized tribe in their region.

Most of Connecticut’s 169 cities and towns receive a grant from the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund, with extra money earmarked for communities located near the tribes’ Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casinos. The Mohegan Tribe and the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, which owns Foxwoods, have each said they believe it’s appropriate to end the use of Native American imagery in team names and mascots.



Claire’s Corner Copia is one of the eateries participating in New Haven Restaurant Week. COURANT FILE PHOTO

Time for dinner

New Haven Restaurant Week is March 27 to April 9

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

New Haven Restaurant Week will be held March 27 to April 9, with some of the city’s best-loved eateries offering prix fixed meals starting at \$20, discounts of up to 20% and complimentary add-ons at full-service restaurants, cafes, bakeries and fast-casual spots, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The city lifted its seven-month-old indoor mask mandate on March 7. “As we welcome people back to New Haven, our focus on safety will be a critical component of the success of our reopening,” Mayor Justin Elicker said.

Restaurant Week is presented by Market New Haven, in collaboration with City of New Haven, Yale University and Yale New Haven Health System. The event is popular, so diners are advised to make reservations.

Here is a list of the 53 participating restaurants, divided by neighborhood. For details, visit infonewhaven.com. The prix fixe menu items, and the complementary add-ons, will be decided closer to the start of the restaurant week. Check the restaurants’ websites for menu details.

Chapel West

- Atelier Florian, 1166 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$35 brunch and dinner
- Chaps Grille, 1174 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$29.99 lunch
- Heirloom at The Study, 1157 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$22 lunch and \$42 dinner
- SoBol, 320 Congress St.: 20% off breakfast, lunch and dinner

Dixwell

- Fussy Coffee, 290 Winchester Ave.: Complementary add-on with breakfast
- Yamasaki Teriyaki, 9 Dixwell Ave.: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner

Downtown

- The Anchor Spa, 272 College St.: Prix fixe \$35 to \$40 dinner
- Ashley’s Ice Cream, 280 York St.: 20% off ice cream order
- The Bagelry at Olmo, 93 Whitney Ave.: 20% off bulk bagel orders
- Barcelona Wine Bar, 155 Temple St.: Prix fixe \$45 dinner
- Basta Trattoria, 1006 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$43 dinner
- Blue Orchid Pan Asian Cuisine and Bar, 130 Court St.: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner
- B Natural Kitchen, 260 College St.: 10% off breakfast, lunch or dinner
- Bulldog Hotdogs, 56 Broadway: 15% off lunch or dinner
- Claire’s Corner Copia, 1000 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$20.22 lunch and dinner
- Crepes Choupette, 24 Whitney Ave.: Prix fixe \$20 breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Elm City Social, 266 College St.: Prix fixe \$42 dinner
- Est Est Est Pizza & Restaurant, 1176 Chapel St.: 10% off lunch or dinner
- Geronimo Tequila Bar and Southwest Grill, 271 Crown St.: Prix fixe \$45 dinner
- Harvest Wine Bar & Restaurant, 1104 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$22 lunch and \$44 dinner
- Jazzy’s Cabaret, 4 Orange St.:

- Prix fixe \$55 dinner
- Katalina’s Bakery, 74 Whitney Ave.: Complementary add-on with breakfast, lunch or brunch
- Mediterranean Café, 140 Orange St.: 15% off lunch
- Merkato, 51 Orange St.: Complementary add-on with lunch
- Olea, 39 High St.: Prix fixe \$57 dinner
- Olives & Oil, 124 Temple St.: Prix fixe \$35 dinner
- Pacifico, 220 College St.: Prix fixe \$21 lunch and \$42 dinner
- Prime 16 New Haven, 172 Temple St.: Prix fixe \$24.95 lunch and dinner
- Ricky D’s Rib Shack, 302 Winchester Ave.: 10% off lunch and dinner
- Sherkaan Indian Street Food, 65 Broadway: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner
- Skappo, 59 Crown St.: Complementary add-on with dinner
- Soul de Cuba, 283 Crown St.: Prix fixe \$20 lunch and dinner
- South Bay, 228 College St.: Prix fixe \$22 lunch and \$44 dinner
- Sushi on Chapel, 1022 Chapel St.: 15% off entire check
- Tomatillo, 320 Elm St.: 15% off lunch and dinner
- Union League Café, 1032 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$49 dinner
- Villa Lulu, 230 College St.: Prix fixe \$21 lunch and \$42 dinner
- Yorkside Pizza and Restaurant, 288 York St.: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner
- Zaroka Bar & Grill, 148 York St.: 15% off lunch and dinner
- ZINC New Haven, 964 Chapel St.: Prix fixe \$42 dinner

East Rock

- Caffè Bravo, 794 Orange St.: Prix

- fixe \$22 lunch and \$45 dinner
- Christopher Martins Pub, 860 Staet St.: Prix fixe \$35 lunch and dinner
- Jordan’s Hot Dogs & Mac, 970 State St.: 10% off brunch, lunch and dinner

Long Wharf

- Shell & Bones Oyster Bar and Grill, 100 South Water St.: Prix fixe \$65 dinner

Upper State Street

- Cast Iron Chef Chophouse, 660 State St.: Prix fixe \$48 dinner
- Goodfellas Restaurant, 702 State St.: Prix fixe \$42 dinner
- L’Orcio, 806 State St.: Prix fixe \$42 dinner

Westville/Amity

- The Café at Bloom, 794 Edgewood Ave: Complementary add-on with breakfast, brunch and lunch
- Camacho Garage, 36 Fountain St.: Prix fixe \$45 dinner
- Fin and Scale, 920 Whalley Ave.: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner
- Pistachio Café, 911 Whalley Ave: Complementary add-on with brunch

Wooster Square

- Consiglio’s Restaurant, 165 Wooster St.: Complementary add-on with lunch and dinner
- Tre Scalini, 100 Wooster St.: Prix fixe \$39 dinner

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Heaven Skate Park sets skateboard competition, music, pillow fight

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Skateboarders and anyone looking to relieve a little stress are invited to Heaven Skate Park in Hartford on April 2 for a skateboard competition, music, food trucks — and a pillow fight.

Heaven founder Juju Camacho says the pillow fight has been done in other cities for about 10 years, but this is the first time it will come to Hartford. He saw it in New York about four years ago.

“It was not chaotic. It was just so much fun,” Camacho said. The event, he said, follows in the path of mixed martial arts, which now has a professional pillow-fight subgenre.

“That’s crazy stuff. But this is not a competition. It’ll be regular people swinging around, having fun, letting out aggression and stress,” he said. Participants must provide pillows: “It’s BYOP,” he said.

The event runs from noon to 5 p.m. The skateboarding is from noon to 2 p.m. Music follows, provided by drum and bass deejays Detroit Mike, Valdee, DJ Steppo, Elzwerth, Itchy & Scratchy, Lavish Soule and Day Six. The pillow fight ends the day.

The skate park is looking for artists to paint the two towers in the park. Camacho said 15 to 20 artists have applied so far, and



On April 2 at Heaven Skate Park in Hartm, there will be a skateboard competition and a pillow fight. COURANT FILE PHOTO

people who attend the event can vote on the artists.

“It will be completely decided by a vote of the people,” he said. “That’s what Heaven is all about. It’s for all the people.”

Food trucks will be parked at the event, as well as some clothing vendors.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Law change sought to allow student-athletes to use school logos in deals

By Susan Haigh
Associated Press

Connecticut lawmakers have been asked to update last year’s state law that allows student-athletes to be compensated for their name and likeness in marketing deals and allow them to use their state college or university’s logo, mascot or other institutional marks when they’re pitching products like sports drinks and apparel.

Connecticut and South Carolina are currently the only two states that prohibit student-athletes from using such marks, potentially putting both the students and the schools at a competitive disadvantage, according to a top official in UConn’s athletic department.

“None of us want to inhibit the ability of our outstanding coaches to recruit talented student-athletes to UConn,” said Neal Eskin, executive associate athletic director at UConn, in recent testimony. “In order to compete at the highest level, we must make certain that student-athletes who choose to enroll in college in Connecticut have the same opportunities as those at schools in other states.”

The Connecticut General Assembly is the latest state legislature to consider changing newly minted rules for paid student endorsements in order to help their schools land or keep top prospects. In Alabama, the governor last month signed a

bill repealing the state’s recent law governing college athletic compensation in order to eliminate barriers for student-athletes, while Florida lawmakers are considering changes to their law to blunt competitive disadvantages with other states.

Updates to various state laws are being made after the NCAA on July 1 cleared the way for college athletes to be compensated, creating minimal guidelines that bar pay-for-play and using endorsements as recruiting inducements.

On Thursday, with no debate, members of the Connecticut legislature’s Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee unanimously advanced a bill that would end the prohibition on using school logos to the state Senate for further action. Rep. Josh Elliott, D-Hamden, the committee’s co-chair, said the legislation had been requested by UConn.

To date, UConn has seen 97 student-athlete endorsement deals across 14 different varsity teams, Eskin said. Most of the arrangements, he said, have involved students pitching products like “trading cards, sports drinks, nutrition supplements, apparel and gear, and food service items.” He said bringing Connecticut’s rules in line with other states’ rules will help ensure that student-athletes enjoy the “full value” of their name, image or likeness, often referred to as NIL.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOTICE OF DECISION

On March 10, 2022, the Chester Planning & Zoning Commission approved, with conditions, the following: Application for a modification to existing Special Exception for exterior modifications to 45 and 47 Main Street. Applicants: Taylor & Bria Gilbert. Details of the application and decision may be obtained by emailing zoningofficial@chesterct.org.

Bettie Perreault, Secretary
Chester Planning & Zoning Commission
3/18/2022 7169787

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MARION G. BLAIS, late of East Hampton, AKA MARION F. BLAIS (22-00047)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated March 7, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Debra C. Daniels, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Robert B. Wallace
c/o WILLIAM D GRADY, WILLIAM D. GRADY, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 8 WEST HIGH STREET, PO BOX 179, EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424 3/18/2022 7170985

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF GEORGE F. PARENT, Late of East Hampton, AKA GEORGE FRED PARENT (22-00035)

The Hon. Jennifer L. Berkenstock, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Region # 14 Probate Court, by decree dated March 3, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Suzanne B. Emond, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Julie E. Lefemine
c/o KENNETH WILLIS BARBER, KENNETH BARBER AND ASSOCIATES, LLC, 29 WEST HIGH STREET, PO BOX 88, EAST HAMPTON, CT 06424 3/18/22 7170895

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice FARMINGTON STORAGE, 155 Scott Swamp Road Farmington CT 06032, Intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored to the following tenant at said facility.

The Sale will occur as an online auction Via www.StorageTreasures.com on April 1, 2022 at 11:00am.

Unless otherwise stated the contents of the unit include a free-standing basketball hoop and metal shelf.

Shamari Eason, last known address; 235 Camp St Bristol, CT 06010.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

3/18, 3/25/2022 7170015

Notice of Annual Report Submission

Town of Essex 2021 Annual Report

Existing MS4 Permittee

Permit Number GSM 000019

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Essex (the "permittee") of 29 West Avenue, Essex, Connecticut 06426 will submit to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection AN MS4 STORMWATER ANNUAL REPORT under Section 6(j) of General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) issued under the authority of the Connecticut General Statutes for a permit to initiate, create, originate and/or maintain a discharge of water, substance or material to the waters of the state.

Specifically, the MS4 General Permit requires each municipality to take steps to keep stormwater entering its storm sewer systems clean before the stormwater enters water bodies. The Annual Report is prepared to outline the critical steps taken in 2021 to achieve permit requirements.

Interested persons may inspect and leave comments about the 2021 MS4 Annual Report to Lisa Fasulo, 860-767-4340 x 118 or lfasulo@essexct.gov. The report is available online at www.essexct.gov.

3/18/2022 7170788

Bristol, Connecticut

Invitation to Bid 2022-075

Water and Sanitary Sewer Installation at Pine Lake

The City of Bristol is seeking bids for installation of water and sanitary sewer utility service within Pine Lake off Birch Street. Bid documents may be obtained at no charge by downloading from the web site via the following link: https://www.bristolct.gov/Bids.aspx?BidID=1111

Bids will be accepted until April 5, 2022 at 11:00 am via the online electronic bidding system through QuestCON.com. Bids received after the opening date and time will not be considered for award. The City reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bid, to reject any or all bids, and to accept the bid that in its judgment is in its best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the bidders base bid amount, in the form of a Bid Bond made payable to the City of Bristol.

The awarded contractor will be required to secure a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Bond, each in the amount of 100% of the contract award, provided by a surety licensed to do business in the State of Connecticut.

The successful Bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Roger D. Rousseau, Purchasing Agent
Tel (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
http://www.bristolct.gov/bids
3/18/2022 7169935

Invitation to Bid 2022-003

INSTALLATION OF CONCRETE SIDEWALKS AND EXTRUDED CONCRETE CURBING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sealed proposals, addressed to the Supervisor of Purchases, City of Middletown, Room 112, Municipal Building, Middletown, Connecticut, will be received until Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 11:00 AM for the following:

BID #2022-003
INSTALLATION OF CONCRETE SIDEWALKS AND EXTRUDED CONCRETE CURBING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Plans and Specifications will not be available for pick up, they will be available and can only be obtained from our website at www.middletownct.gov.

Bids will be publicly opened via WebEx and a meeting invite will be posted to our website for anyone who wishes to join.

All bid submittals shall be received on the designated forms provided in a sealed envelope using the return label provided and marked as designated in the Information for Bidders. It is the responsibility of the bidder to plan accordingly that bids are received by the set date and time. Bids received "late" or faxed will not be considered.

A Bid Bond in the amount of ten (10%) percent of the total bid amount shall be required with all bids submitted. A Labor and Material Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract sum shall be required upon signing of contract documents. Please note: This contract award is subject to prevailing wage rates.

The City of Middletown reserves the right to waive any defect or any irregularity in any bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof. Bids, and amendments to bids received after the time set for the bid opening will not be considered. All bids must be completely filled out when submitted. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the City of Middletown's written consent. Withdrawal of any bid must be submitted in writing to the City of Middletown.

All bids and proposals are subject to, and must comply with the equal opportunity and non-discriminatory provisions set forth in the Affirmative Action Plan of the City of Middletown.

Dated: 03/18/2022
Middletown, Connecticut
Donna L. Formato, CPPB, NIGP-CPP
Supervisor of Purchases
3/18/2022 7170749

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Film tells improbable tale of shelter dog turned police K-9

By William J. Kole
Associated Press

This is the story of a mischievous mutt who turned out to be a very good girl. Such a good girl, in fact, that she saved a life.

Ruby, an Australian shepherd and border collie mix, ended up in a Rhode Island animal shelter as a pup because of persistent behavioral problems. Five families adopted her in turn, only for each to return her because she was too rambunctious.

“She was a total knucklehead,” said shelter volunteer and dog trainer Patricia Inman, who repeatedly intervened to keep Ruby from being euthanized. “She jumped and bit her leash. She wouldn’t sit or lie down. She just never stopped moving. She was special, and she needed a special person.”

Enter state police Cpl. Daniel O’Neil, who needed a search-and-rescue dog. In 2011, he was taken by an 8-month-old Ruby’s irrepressible energy and intelligence, and after Inman vouched for her, she was trained as a police K-9.

Fast-forward to October 2017, when this tale takes an incredible twist: A teenage boy got lost for 36 hours while hiking, and Ruby succeeded where a human search party failed — she found the boy, who was unconscious and in grave medical condition. He turned out to be Inman’s son.

“Rescued by Ruby,” now on Netflix, tells the story of a problematic pooch who



Rhode Island State Police Cpl. Daniel O’Neil is seen Feb. 16 with his partner, Ruby, a state police K-9. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

just needed another shot.

“Ruby was given a chance at life and ended up saving a life,” the American Humane Hero Dog organization said in a 2018 citation naming her the nation’s “Search and Rescue Dog of the Year.”

In yet another twist, Ruby is played by a canine actor, Bear, another former shelter dog who was saved by the movie’s dog trainers from being put down.

“It’s a true underdog story,” O’Neil, 41, said in an interview at his office at the

Rhode Island State Police, where he now oversees an 18-dog K-9 unit.

“It’s like divine intervention. She was given a chance, and she’s been doing everything she can to pay it back,” he said. “You have this dog that was given

up on, and she’s changed so many people’s lives.”

O’Neil knew adopting a shelter dog written off as unmanageable was a gamble. Police dogs typically are bred for their work and trained from birth. Most state police

K-9s cost \$7,500 and come from Europe.

But O’Neil recalls being impressed by Ruby’s determination and focus, and she graduated at the top of her class. And as someone with dyslexia and hyperactivity, he identified with Ruby.

“We both kind of know where each other’s coming from,” he said.

On the afternoon of the boy’s rescue, Ruby led O’Neil straight to the teen, who had tumbled into a ravine. O’Neil’s radio and GPS were out of range, but Ruby’s repeated barking drew authorities to the scene.

When O’Neil knocked on the door of the boy’s home to deliver the good news, he found himself face to face with Inman: “I said, ‘Pat, this was her thank-you for saving her life — she saved your boy’s life.’ And we both started to cry.”

Later, as it all sank in, Inman found herself wondering: What if?

What if O’Neil hadn’t taken a chance? What if Ruby had been put down?

“I was so grateful. I was beside myself and overwhelmed,” she said. “So many things had to fall into place for this to happen the way it did. The universe works in mysterious ways.”

O’Neil, who’s played in the Netflix film by the CW’s “The Flash” star Grant Gustin, said he hopes people will consider adopting a shelter dog.

“If you show them love and compassion and you give them a certain type of stability, they’ll show their true colors,” he said.

CELEBRITIES



Regina King, from left, Blake Lively, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Ryan Reynolds. AP PHOTOS

Stars to serve as Met Gala co-chairs

From news services

Regina King, Blake Lively, Ryan Reynolds and Lin-Manuel Miranda will serve as co-chairs of the Met Gala, returning to its traditional berth on the first Monday in May.

The May 2 evening is actually the second star-studded gala after the annual fundraiser for the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute was split during the pandemic. It celebrates “In America: An Anthology of Fashion,” the second part of a major two-part exhibition at the museum exploring the roots of American fashion.

The first part opened in September along with the first pared-down “mini-gala” as the Costume Institute struggled with pandemic restrictions. Tom Ford, Adam Mosseri and Anna Wintour will continue their roles as honorary co-chairs for the second event.

A group of top film directors — including King, Sofia Coppola, Martin Scorsese and last year’s Oscar winner Chloe Zhao — will be a key part of the exhibit launching the gala.

Star curator Andrew Bolton said eight directors will create what he called “cinematic vignettes.” The other four are Ford, Janicza Bravo, Julie Dash and Autumn de Wilde.

Both parts of the exhibition will remain on display until Sept. 5.

The Met Gala is one of the biggest nights in fashion as celebrity guests often dress to the theme of the exhibition each year.

Foundation says Parton stays on ballot: Dolly Parton is still on the list of this year’s nominations for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame despite the country icon asking to be removed because she hasn’t “earned that right.” The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation said in a statement Thursday that, in effect, it is up to the voters to decide if Parton is elected.

“Dolly’s recommendation, along with the other 16 nominees for the class of 2022 was sent out earlier this month to our 1,200 general ballot voters, the majority of whom are artists themselves, for consideration for induction at our ceremony.”

On Monday, Parton went on social media to “respectfully bow out” of the process, saying she did not want to take votes away from the remaining nominees.

Parton is most associated with country music and is in the Country Hall of Fame, but she has performed songs with a rock feel.

The Foundation on Thursday said there was plenty of room in the Hall for artists who aren’t pure rockers.

“From its inception, rock ‘n’ roll has had deep roots in rhythm and blues and

country music. It is not defined by any one genre, rather a sound that moves youth culture,” the statement reads.

Khan, Lauper, Beck to play at Mitchell tribute: Chaka Khan, Stephen Stills, Sara Bareilles, Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter and Beck will be among those performing in tribute to Joni Mitchell when she’s honored as the 2022 MusiCares Person of the Year by the Recording Academy.

The academy announced the latest additions to the lineup Thursday for the tribute concert and gala to be held April 1 in Las Vegas, two days before the Grammy Awards.

Other performers include Lauren Daigle, Angelique Kidjo, Allison Russell and St. Vincent.

Singer-songwriter Mitchell, 78, is being honored for her artistic accomplishments, the inspiration she has given to other artists and her philanthropy.

March 18 birthdays: Composer John Kander is 95. Actor Brad Dourif is 72. Singer Irene Cara is 63. Actor Geoffrey Owens is 61. Singer Vanessa Williams is 59. Actor Queen Latifah is 52. Comedian Dane Cook is 50. Actor Sutton Foster is 47. Singer Adam Levine is 43. Actor Duane Henry is 37. Actor Lily Collins is 33.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Friend wants bridesmaids to cover up ink

Dear Readers: Every year I step away from my column for two weeks to work on other creative projects. I hope you enjoy these “Best of” columns from 10 years ago. Today’s topic: tattoos.

Dear Amy: I want my two best friends to be in my bridal party, however, they both have multiple large tattoos on their arms, chest and back that I think are hideous.

I adore my friends, but when I think of how their tattoos will look in my wedding photos, I cringe.

Should I ask other friends to be bridesmaids instead? Or should I have them in the wedding and have their body art be a major distraction?

I hate to think what my conservative grandparents will think about my tattooed bridesmaids.

— Madison

Dear Madison: I suggest you approach this by being completely upfront, though not using the word “hideous.”

Tell them both: “I’m eager for you to be a bridesmaid, but my grandparents will be freaked out by your ink. Are you willing to wear body art concealer on the day — or wear dresses with more coverage? I understand if you don’t want to do this. Either way, I want you to be with me on my wedding day.”

When a person agrees to be a bridesmaid, she also agrees to appear in whatever uniform the bride chooses. We all know that bridesmaid dresses are sometimes more unsightly than any tattoo, but on this day, “hideous” is a bride’s prerogative.

Dear Amy: Although my husband and I enjoyed the letter from “Madison,” we both agree that your advice missed the mark.

You suggested that Madison be “completely upfront” with her friends — OK, good start — then you counseled her to weasel out and blame her grandparents — the old fogies. Yikes! Young people who have “multiple large tattoos on their arms, chest and back” in all probability don’t care what their own grandparents think, let alone someone else’s. Stating as certainty that the bride’s grandparents “will be freaked out” by her friends’ body ink is disingenuous.

The grandparents are not making the coverup request; the bride is. She needs to own up to her preference.

— Robin & Mark

Dear Robin & Mark: “Madison” did worry what her grandparents would think of her tattooed bridesmaids, but you are right — her first concern was her own dislike of “ink,” and she should not blame the fogies.

Dear Amy: Tattoos don’t repulse me, but I don’t like them. My long-term boyfriend has a few tattoos, all of which have special meaning to him.

Now he has decided to get a half-sleeve of tattoos. I don’t particularly want his arms to be covered in artwork, but I know there’s nothing I can do about it.

I haven’t told him that I’d rather him not get more tattoos. I know it’s his body, and he can do what he desires with it, but I can’t help but think

that this will spiral out of control.

I don’t want to date a guy who is covered in tattoos. Should I tell him?

— Unsure

Dear Unsure: You convey a solid realization that your boyfriend has the right to do what he wishes with his own body. You can, however, weigh in.

Tattoos are privately chosen but publicly viewed. Let’s imagine what it would be like if you didn’t say anything and your boyfriend’s half-sleeve did repulse you.

You: “I really hate your ink.” He: “Gee, do you think you might have mentioned this before I spent hours under the gun?”

You can say, “I’m not a huge fan of lots of tattoos. But I am a huge fan of yours. I’m not sure how I’ll react to all of your new ink, but if it’s what you really want, I’ll do my best to embrace it.”

Dear Amy: Future tattooers: Before you cover yourself with meaningful “artwork,” go visit a senior center. Take a long look at their once-firm flesh, and imagine it covered in unrecognizable ink.

— Susan

Dear Susan: My awesome Uncle Harvey used to show me the battleship he’d had tattooed on his forearm during his time in the Merchant Marines. By the age of 80, that ship had definitely sailed.

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‘THE OUTFIT’ ★★★

Gangster noir set in 1950s stitched up with expert care

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

Leonard (Mark Rylance), the proprietor of the finest bespoke suiting shop in 1956 Chicago, wants to make one thing very clear: he’s not a tailor, he’s a cutter. “Anyone with a needle and thread can call themselves a tailor,” he sniffs. No, Leonard trained for years on legendary Savile Row in London learning the art of cutting suits from fine cloth, and he wields his trusty old shears with the precision and confidence that comes from decades dedicated to his craft.

“The Outfit,” written by Johnathan McClain and Graham Moore, is the directorial debut of Moore, who won the adapted screenplay Oscar for “The

Imitation Game.” It takes place entirely within the confines of Leonard’s shop, a cozy respite from the freezing, seemingly bullet-riddled Chicago streets. But the gang warfare creeps beyond the threshold of L. Burling Bespoke, and the result is a twisty, blood-soaked chamber piece, a retro gangster noir as meticulously crafted as a fine custom suit.

An immigrant from England, Leonard claims that he has come to Chicago to ply his trade because he was under attack — from blue jeans. He’s slipped into this world of Al Capone wannabes by submitting to their demands: There’s a secret letterbox in the back of his shop where the Irish mob sends and receives

messages. It doesn’t arouse suspicion for men to come and go frequently from the suit shop, and gang leader Roy Boyle (Simon Russell Beale) has a taste for nice clothing and Leonard’s refined English manner.

But it’s Boyle’s arrogant son, Richie (Dylan O’Brien) who runs his errands, with his menacing compatriot Francis (Johnny Flynn) by his side, Richie shooting a few too many grins in the direction of Leonard’s comely receptionist, Mable (Zoey Deutch). One night, as Leonard’s working late, Richie and Francis burst through the door, Richie bleeding from a bullet in his gut. They have in their possession a recording from an FBI bug, and if they only they can find



Oscar winner Mark Rylance stars in “The Outfit.”
NICK WALL/FOCUS FEATURES

something to play it on, they’ll discover who the rat might be. This is only the beginning of the gory drama that will play out over the next couple of hours in this space.

Portrayed with thoughtfulness and studied physicality by Oscar winner Rylance, one can’t shake the feeling that Leonard’s quiet nature belies some-

thing much deeper. He’s just a bit too quick on his feet, and too clever with a lie, placating all sorts of suspicions as Richie, Francis and Roy cycle through, the situation becoming increasingly dangerous and wider in scope.

Set in the one location, and driven by the script and performances, “The Outfit” feels theatrical, like

a play, but what could have otherwise been a minimalist potboiler is elevated by the cast, especially Rylance, who delicately carefully carries the tale and tone. O’Brien, Flynn and Deutch are three of the finest young actors working today, and they play off Rylance’s Leonard with swagger (O’Brien), psychopathy (Flynn), and softness (Deutch).

Legendary cinematographer Dick Pope lenses the film with the kind of desaturated color palette that’s become de rigueur for a period piece, and while certain moments are dull, there’s otherwise a warm, lamp-lit beauty and texture to the film’s style. They don’t often make them like this anymore, a story cut, folded and stitched together with care, so “The Outfit” is worth slipping into and savoring.

MPAA rating: R (for some bloody violence, and language throughout)
Running time: 1:45
Where to watch: In theaters

‘DEEP WATER’ ★★ ½

Erotic thriller explores the undercurrent of a marriage

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

Whither the erotic thriller? The genre, so popular in the late ’80s and early ’90s, is a dying breed in the current Hollywood landscape, so any time one makes it to the screen, it’s a cause for celebration, or at least notice. Especially one directed by Adrian Lyne, the king of the erotic thrillers, having directed “Fatal Attraction,” “9 ½ Weeks,” “Indecent Proposal” and “Unfaithful.” His latest film, “Deep Water,” shot in 2019, produced the quarantine tabloid frenzy that was the much photographed relationship between stars Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas, so it feels like it’s been far too long a wait for this film, an adaptation of a Patricia Highsmith novel.

The Affleck/de Armas affair adds to the pulpy metatextual appeal of

“Deep Water.” The rather basic script by Zach Helm and Sam Levinson is elevated by Lyne’s direction and the performances of the two leads. Lyne draws out the elements of the story that aren’t laid out in the text, the darker, far more subversive themes that lie below the surface in this tale of an unconventional marriage.

The premise of “Deep Water” is a husband “allowing” his wife to conduct extramarital affairs in order to keep her within the family fold. But Vic Van Allen (Affleck) doesn’t seem to allow, so much as he barely tolerates, visibly grimacing when Melinda (de Armas) parades her lovers under his nose. While not in the text of the script itself, what Lyne teases out is the depiction of their relationship as a dominant/submissive one.



Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas in “Deep Water.” CLAIRE FOLGER/20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

Vic is under Melinda’s manipulative spell, and truth be told, they both kind of like it this way. She gets to have her flings with young hunks, and he gets to work out his aggressive side making idle threats toward them. That her “friends” keep going missing or turning up dead seems only a

minor inconvenience. It all seems a big game for these two wealthy, bored people. Taking lovers is a profession for idle housewife Melinda, and toying with them is another useless hobby for early retiree Vic, who cashed out his career inventing computer chips used in drone warfare now

spends his days publishing a vanity magazine. Weapons of war fund their plush lifestyle in a stately historic New Orleans home, throwing parties for their friends and sniping at each other as Melinda brazenly trots out her boy toys.

His performance as Vic is Affleck in one of his best registers, previously seen in “Gone Girl,” as a smirky, annoyed and brooding jerk. De Armas is utterly magnetic, as usual, and while she’s charming and beautiful, there’s a coldness to her Melinda as well, unquestionably a sociopathic philanderer, who enjoys her flirtations, but only seems to get off on cuckolding her husband. The manipulation is the point, and de Armas’ Melinda relishes that most of all.

Outside of the complex central relationship to which Lyne dedicates his

attention, the supporting characters are disposable, the friends present to witness things and parrot back small-town gossip or serve as a voice of reason in the face of a marriage that doesn’t make sense at all.

“Deep Water” is ridiculous and trashy, but in that “Saturday night, bottle of wine, bowl of popcorn on the couch” kind of way. But this isn’t an easily digestible pabulum either. The ending of the film is far more ambiguous than the novel’s conclusion. Is it an endorsement? That’s up to the viewer, but it’s a lot more complex and chewy than most movies offer up these days, so it’s worth a dip into “Deep Water.”

MPAA rating: R (for sexual content, nudity, language and some violence)
Running time: 1:55
Where to watch: Hulu

‘Young Rock’ introduces one of the women who shaped Johnson’s life

By Alicia Rancilio
Associated Press

Dwayne Johnson’s two younger daughters, Jasmine and Tiana, love to play a game where they make him close his eyes. They go into the kitchen and dump ingredients into a bowl.

“They’re getting flour and water, and I can hear, ‘Where’s the oil?’ and I know what’s coming,” said Johnson. He squints his eyes to peek and sees them approaching. “I’m like, ‘OK, I’m not going to look.’ and then bam! It’s dumped over my head.”



Dwayne Johnson appears with ex-wife Dany Garcia, left, and daughter Simone in 2018. Arlyn Broche portrays Garcia on the second season of “Young Rock.” JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

Johnson’s playful submission with his girls is a contrast to the persona introduced in his former career as a WWE superstar and now as a successful actor. Despite his 6-foot-5 height and muscled physique, Johnson isn’t afraid to show vulnerability and share the lessons he has learned.

Some of those life lessons are part of the NBC series “Young Rock,” which recently kicked off its second season. The show follows a younger Johnson through important moments in his childhood, teen years and in college. Johnson appears in each episode, setting up the stories in an interview from the 2032 presidential campaign trail (a wink to consistent rumors he may one day run for president of the United States).

In his personal life, Johnson is quick to admit that the females run the show. “I am blessed with being surrounded by all estrogen,” said Johnson. “I’m the only dude in the house, me and the dog.”

An only child, Johnson was raised primarily by his mother Ata Johnson. While he also had a relationship with his father, the late pro-wrestler Rocky Johnson, the actor credits his mother

and grandmother for raising him, saying they “had a very clear agenda on how to raise me and what lessons I should be taught and what kind of integrity I should have as a little boy growing up.”

“My grandmother, my mom. My first wife, Dany Garcia, who is now a long-time business partner, my wife today, Lauren, my three daughters continue to influence and teach me daily. Even my little ones. I have a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old, and when you’re open and amenable, you’d be surprised as a man, just how much your daughters will teach you,” he said.

Johnson often says he and his daughter Simone, now 20, “grew up together.”

“I’m a completely different man than I was 20 years ago,” he said. “I had a career in professional wrestling that was on fire. The stuff you thought was important that you should sweat maybe 10, 15 years ago are so meaningless, actually. The most important things really are literally right in front of you (like family).”

In season two of “Young Rock,” viewers will meet Arlyn Broche as Garcia. Johnson and Garcia split in 2007. Garcia, a

businesswoman with a vast portfolio, manages Johnson’s career and is the co-founder of his production company, Seven Bucks Productions.

Johnson hopes that Simone appreciates seeing her parents in a healthy, professional relationship, even though they’re no longer a couple.

“It took a lot of hard work. It took years, actually, because you’ve got to work your (expletive) out,” he laughed. “One of the most important things as we were going through the divorce process was, ‘We’re friends. The marriage didn’t work out.’ Our marriage not working out was the best thing in so many ways. It allowed her to meet the love of her life and me to meet the love of my life.” Johnson says he and Garcia’s husband David Rienzi are “great friends.”

Johnson recognizes that it also takes a special person, his wife Lauren, to be OK with her husband working with his ex-wife.

“That was all of us doing the work. It wasn’t just Dany and I. It was myself and Lauren because we were a couple just starting out. Lauren is amazing. She embodies the two most important qualities, love and kindness.”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): Incredible efficiency could be yours at this very moment! Focus on the nuts and bolts of your life and how you manage to get everything done. If you’ve been keeping on top of things then you should be able to reward yourself.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Sometimes life really can be that good! This sector is where you go to enjoy yourself, meaning you should focus solely on doing things that bring you pleasure. This house also rules stardom, so try to look your best. Your 15 minutes of fame could happen soon.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Some enthusiastic energy is building up under your own roof at this time. If you’ve been thinking about doing some redecorating, then this is the perfect time to start shifting your surroundings. You could also decide that it’s time to pack up. An issue with a family member might come to a head.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): New ideas can carry you further than normal today. Your immediate vicinity is a very busy phase for you, one where lots of things can happen, so do your best to stay organized. Many people are ready to hear what you have to say. Take some time today to clarify your vision!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 18, 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years’ imprisonment for civil disobedience.

In 1925, the Tri-State Tornado struck southeast-

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Your finances are clamoring for attention! If your wallet is feeling light, start searching out new opportunities. If you’re happy with your work, it might be time to discuss a raise. Make your value as an employee clear so that authority figures have trouble disagreeing with you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Modesty and avoiding the spotlight are hallmarks of your sign, but that doesn’t mean there aren’t moments when you should go against the grain. If you’ve got any dreams sitting on the back burner, move them onto the high heat. Seeds you planted are ready to be harvested!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You might be ready to let go of bad habits from your past. Look around your life for any issues or baggage that might still be lingering, and make a conscious point to start showing them the door. If you’re not sure where to begin, try sitting down to make a list of any negative patterns that you want to release.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Lots of exciting opportunities are coming your way! They’ll be hard to miss. You never know when new friends or events will come out of the woodwork. If you’ve been feeling rather insular lately, this is a good time to start getting out and about. Adventure may be waiting for you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You’ve likely been working very hard for a very long time, and that could be about to start paying off at last. A chance to make a name for yourself could arrive unexpectedly, so be ready to perform at a moment’s notice. Bosses may be supportive right now.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You aren’t necessarily adventurous, but that doesn’t have to always be true. If you’ve been feeling stuck in place, the chance to spread your wings could appear on the horizon at any moment. Feel free to take the first steps forward yourself, rather than waiting on others.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Something major is stirring, prepping itself for you to come and take it. There is a chance to snap up a windfall that you heartily deserve. It might feel like you’re being put through the wringer. Rest assured that on the other side is a pot of gold, ready and waiting for you to come and take it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone very specific and important might be waiting to make an appearance in your world. Get serious about the people in your life. If you’ve been waiting to make something official with someone, consider this the green light. Your perfect partner-in-crime is about to appear.

went outside his capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States, sparked by American support for Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

In 2018, Vladimir Putin rolled to a reelection victory for six more years as Russia’s president.

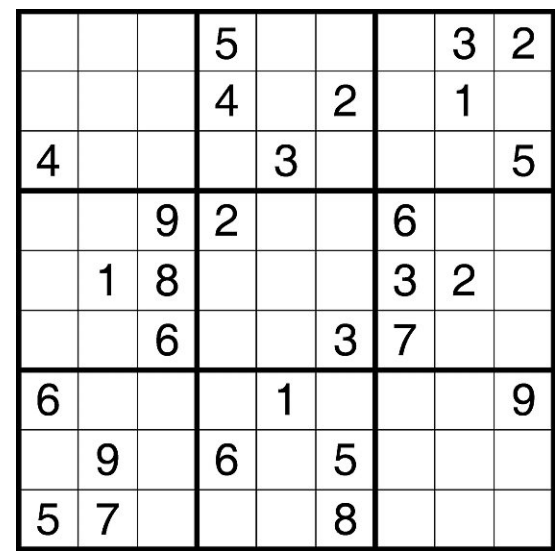
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

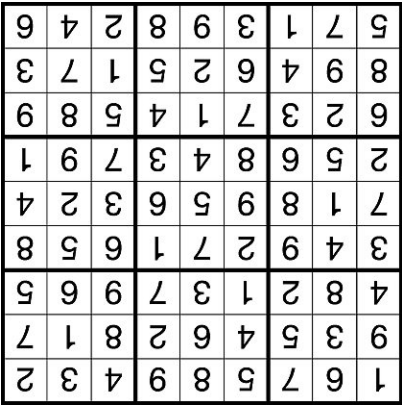
SUDOKU



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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



BOGGLE



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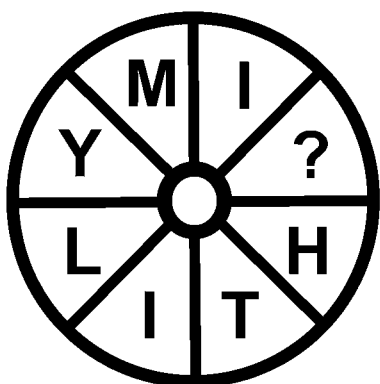
INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 6 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST SEVEN MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION in the grid of letters.

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.
MIGHTILY
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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: wish you were here

320

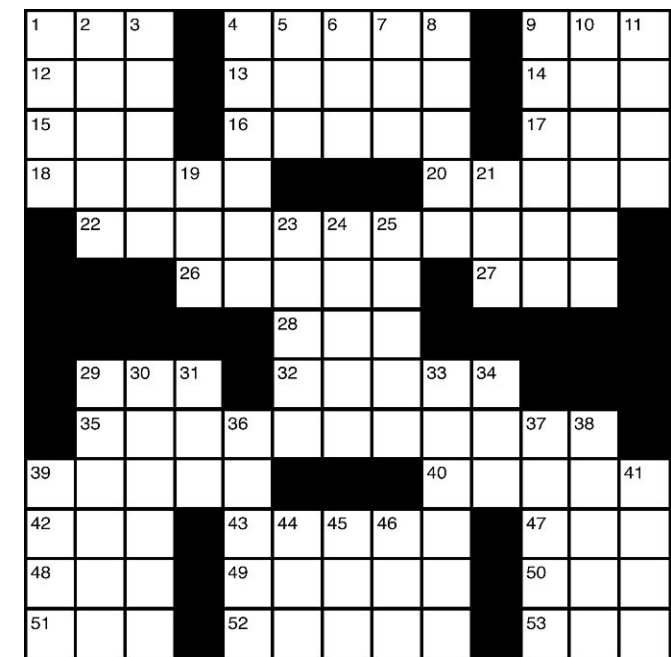
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------|----------|
| BARBECUE | DINE | LOUNGE | SHOPS |
| BEACH | DIVING | MOTEL | SHOW |
| BIKE | FILM | MUSEUM | SOUVENIR |
| BOAT | FISH | PALACE | SWIM |
| CAFE | GALLERY | PARK | TAVERN |
| CAMERA | GOLF | PASSPORT | TAXI |
| CAMP | GUIDE | PLANE | TENNIS |
| CASTLE | HOSTEL | POOL | TOUR |
| CLUB | HOTEL | RESERVATION | TRAIN |
| COACH | ISLAND | SAFARI | TRAVEL |
| CRUISE | LAZE | SAIL | WALKING |
| CUSTOMS | LINER | SCENERY | YACHT |
| DANCE | LODGE | | |

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



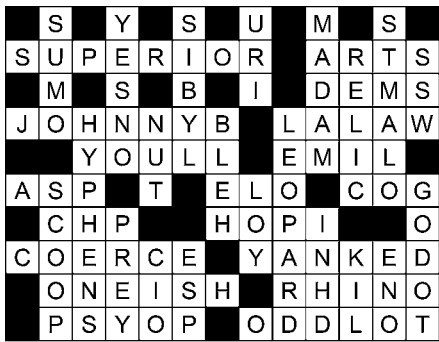
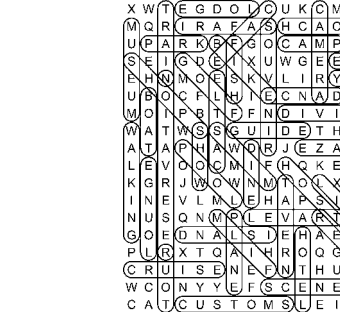
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/19/17

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actress Thurman
4 "Breaking ____"
9 "Not ____ Stranger"; Frank Sinatra movie
12 Depressed
13 Actor Willem ____
14 Org. for Blackhawks and Penguins
15 Soil, after a heavy rain
16 Lt. ____ Van Buren; Merckerson's "Law & Order" role
17 ____ Grissom; "CSI" role
18 AB followers
20 "Men in ____"
22 Actor on "Conviction"
26 "____ & Martin's Laugh-In"
27 "____ About You"
28 Holiday ____; traveler's stop, perhaps
29 Prefix for center or gram
32 Webster and Wyle
35 Actor on "The Goldbergs"
39 "The ____ and the Ecstasy"
40 Role on "I Love Lucy"
42 Janitor's item
- DOWN**
- 43 "____ Day to Die Hard"; Bruce Willis film
47 Maya's role on "Up All Night"
48 "____ My Children"
49 Actor James ____; portrayer of Governor Gattling on "Benson"
50 Goodman or Cariou
51 JFK's predecessor
52 ____ on; watched from hiding
53 Nourished



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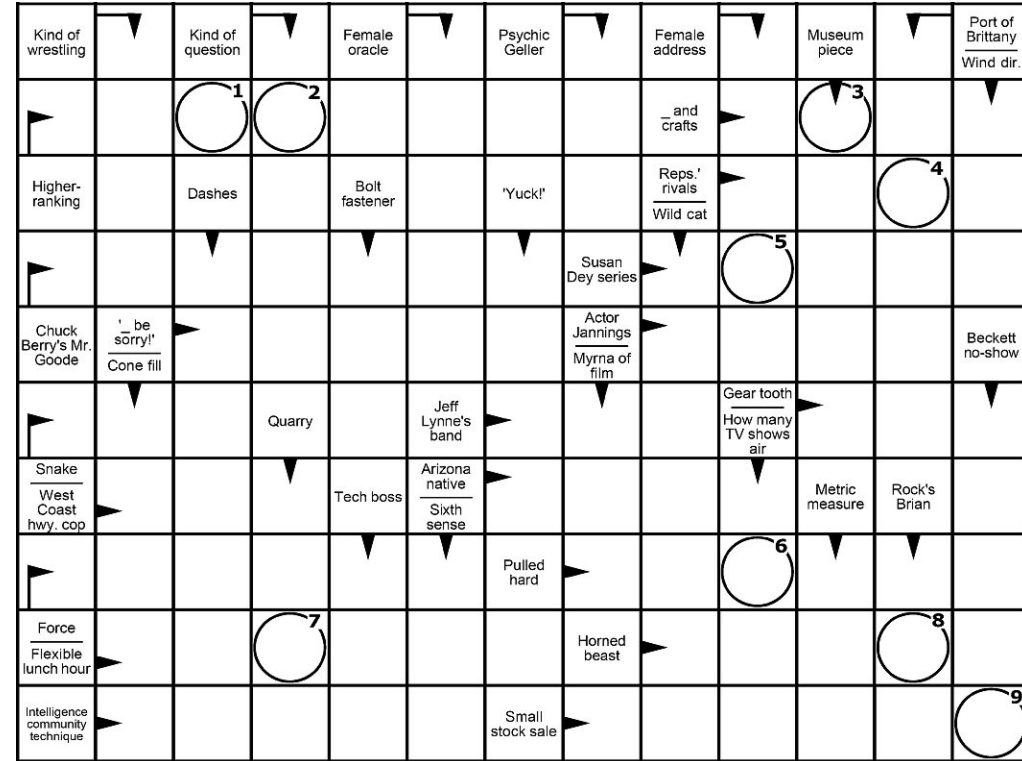
Wish you were here



PERMANENT

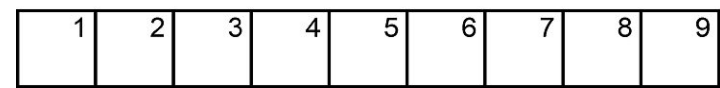
ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

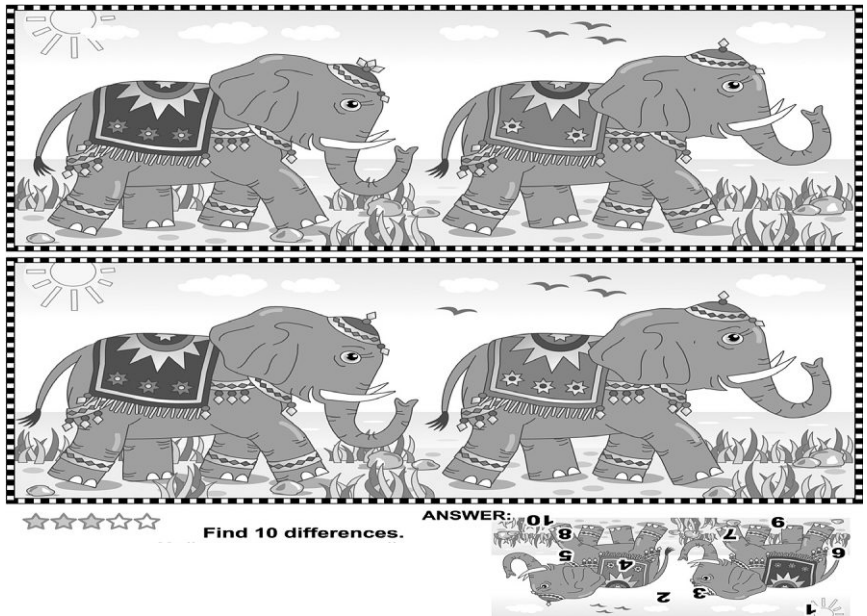
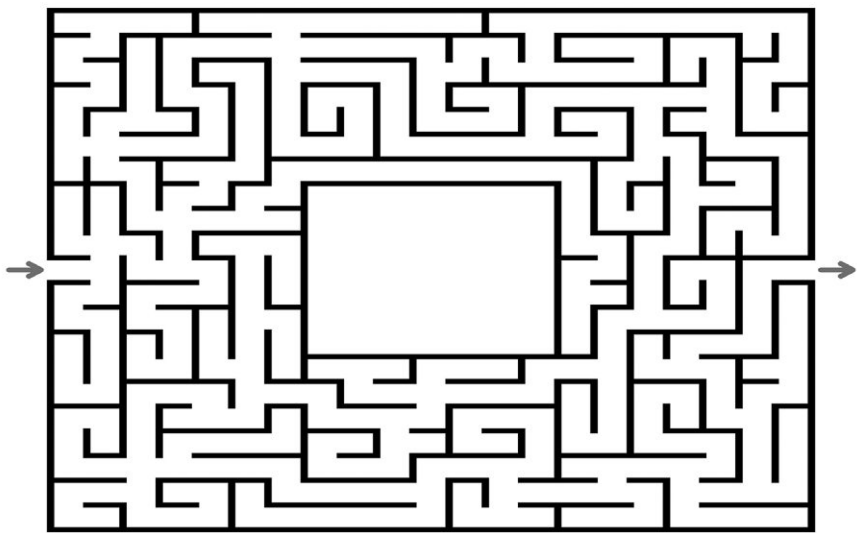


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7/12/20



KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



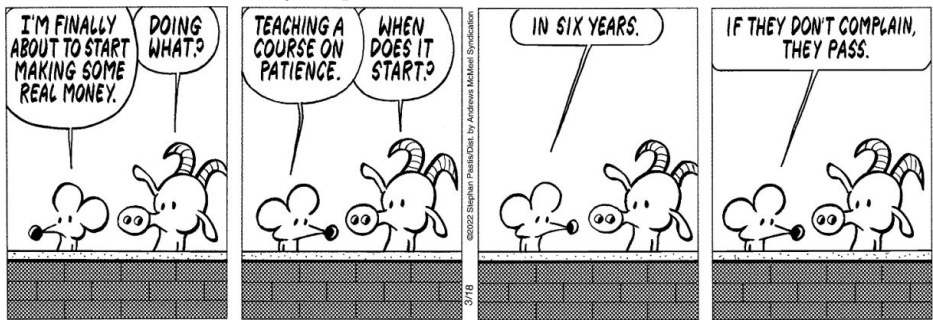
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



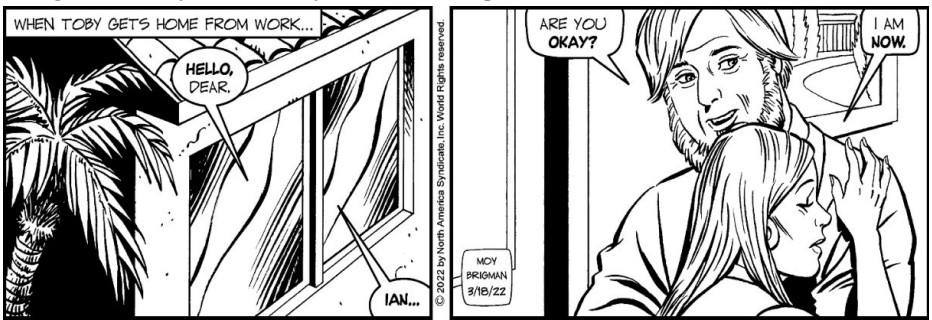
Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



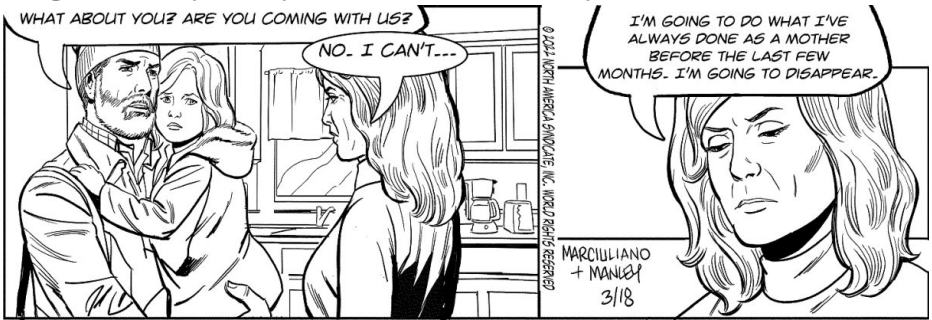
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



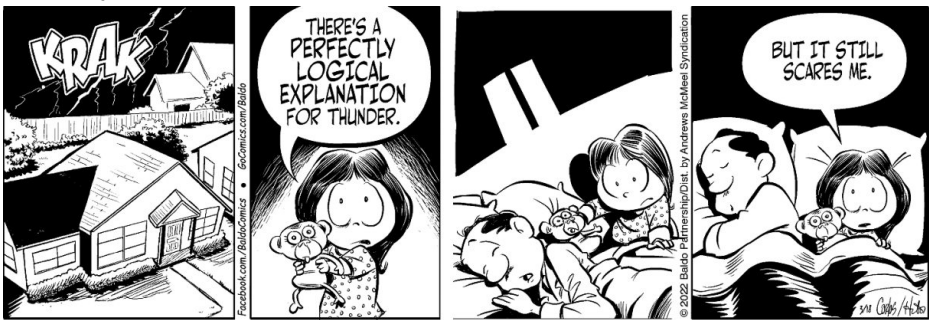
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



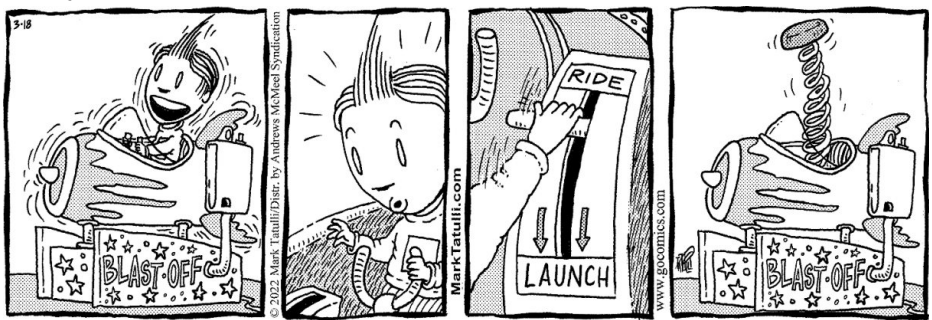
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price

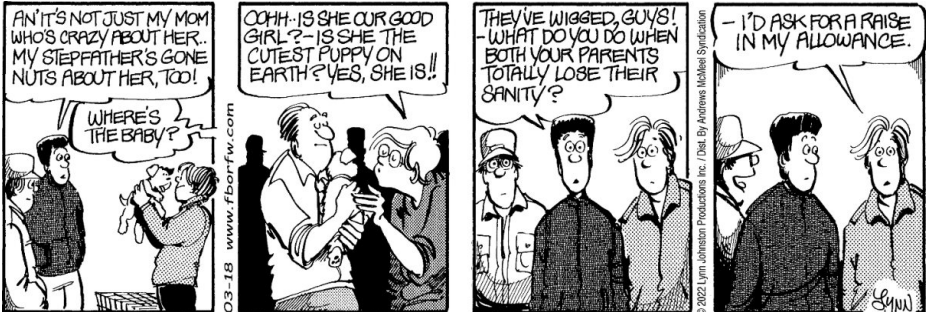


Monty By Jim Meddick



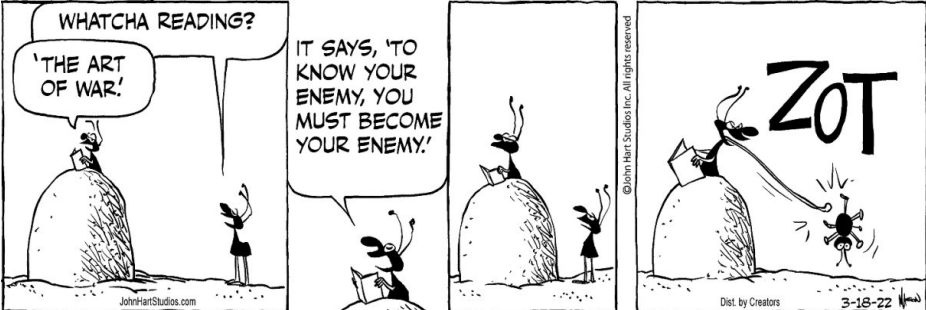
For Better Or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



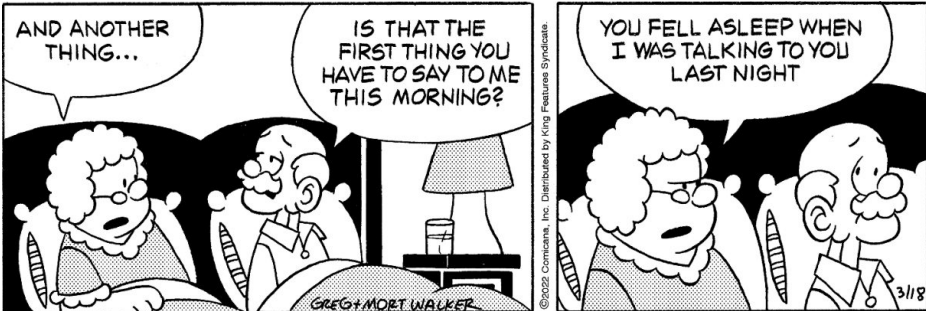
B.C.

By Hart



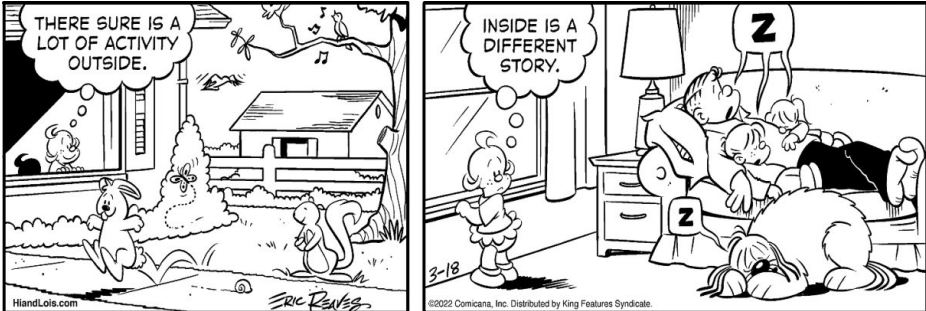
Beetle Bailey

by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



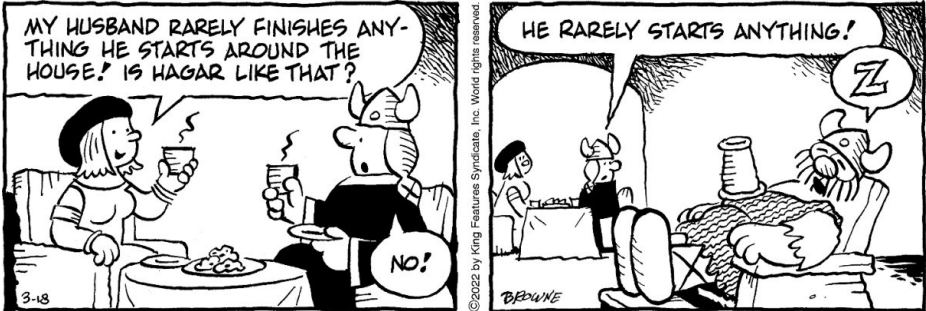
Hi & Lois

By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible

By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur

By Wiley Miller



Curtis

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

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UCONN MEN'S HOCKEY

Program strives for new heights in Hockey East semis

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The moment, many years in the making, has arrived for the UConn men's hockey team. The Huskies have reached the Hockey East semifinals, which puts them two wins from the NCAA Tournament.

"Everyone on our whole roster came here for the right reasons," UConn senior forward Marc Gatcomb said. "And through the four years, our growth has just been tremendous. [Last week] was the first playoff win, but there is so much more to come. This team is very special."

The Huskies beat Boston University in the quarterfinals Saturday, the program's first Hockey East playoff win, and now move on to the TD Garden in Boston to play Northeastern, the regular-season conference champion, in the semifinals on Friday at 4 p.m. The winner will play UMass or UMass Lowell for the championship and the automatic NCAA berth on Saturday at 7 p.m.

"I know a lot of people were saying UConn had never won a playoff game," UConn senior forward Jachym Kondelik said. "But in our time here, we've only had two and we've won one. So it's not like we're nervous going into The Garden. We're going there to win."

UConn (19-15-0) went 1-2 against Northeastern during the regular season. The Huskies won 5-3 in Boston on Oct. 26 and were outscored 8-3 in the home-and-home series Feb. 25 and 26. With an explosive core of offensive players, Northeastern (25-11-1) took advantage of UConn turnovers.

"You've got to manage the puck against Northeastern," UConn coach Mike Cavanaugh said. "We'll have one heck of an opponent to play. Northeastern can get us refocused really quick."

UConn is playing better defense late in the season, never better than in the quarterfinals, clinging to a slim lead as goalie Darion Hanson stopped 38 of 39 shots. Junior Aiden McDonough leads Northeastern in scoring with 23 goals and 14 assists. Goalie Devon Levi has a 1.47 goals-against aver-

Turn to Hockey, Page 4

Up next



UConn vs. Northeastern
4 p.m. Friday

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

A final curtain call for Fairfield coach

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Kate Lynch was standing back at midcourt as her Southern Connecticut women's basketball teammate was making the free throws to clinch a national championship. She couldn't help but glance over at Joe Frager, her ultra studious, ultra competitive coach. "He didn't smile much when he coached," Lynch said. "I remem-

Up next



Fairfield vs. Texas
8 p.m. Fri., ESPN2

ber being at half court looking over with about five seconds and finally seeing Coach Frager smile just a little bit. And we said, 'We did it.' We could relax. ... It took him 36 games to smile, but he did at the

end."

Shortly after the Southern Connecticut women clinched that NCAA Division II national championship in 2007, Frager moved on to coach he Fairfield women with distinction for another 15 years. Last October, after a health scare, he decided it was time to call it a career.

But it wasn't time to smile just

Turn to Fairfield, Page 4

NCAA TOURNAMENT NEW MEXICO STATE 70, UCONN 63



UConn's Tyrese Martin, center, reacts with teammates Adama Sanogo, right, and R.J. Cole during the second half against New Mexico State in a first-round game of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday at KeyBank Center in Buffalo, New York. **ELSA/GETTY**

Huskies at a loss

UConn has no answer for Aggies' Allen, are one-and-done at Dance

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

BUFFALO, N.Y. — To R.J. Cole it was all about getting that first NCAA Tournament win. That's what this season had been about.

Cole and his UConn teammates gave it their all, but in the end it was not enough to offset 37 points from Teddy Allen as the Huskies' 2021-22 season came to an end, 70-63,

at the hands of No. 12 seed New Mexico State on Thursday night at Keybank Arena.

The Aggies will play the winner of No. 4 Arkansas and No. 13 Vermont game in a second-round game on Saturday.

With 27 seconds left, Allen made a layup, got fouled and made the free throw for a 66-60 lead. With 18 seconds left, Cole hit a 3 to make it 66-63. Isaiah Whaley fouled Allen

Inside

Upsets rule Day 1 of the NCAA Tournament. **Page 5**

on the next possession and he made both free throws for a 68-60 advantage. With seven seconds left, Polley missed a 3, then Allen made both free throws on the next possession to clinch the game.

Cole had 20 points on 7-for-15 shooting from the field. Adama Sanogo was next wit 10 points and eight rebounds.

After a quiet first half with just two points, Cole got into a groove in the second half. The guard took smart shots, controlled the offensive pace and helped UConn's offense recover after a slow start.

Turn to UConn, Page 4

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Newington co-op team defeats Conard to win Div. III title

Newington's Tyler Leavitt celebrates his goal during the Division III championship game against Conard at People's United Center at Quinnipiac on Thursday in Hamden. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**



By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

HAMDEN — The worry was there for the Newington co-op hockey team as the clock wound down in the Division III championship game. The Nor'easters knew that Conard was the kind of team that had come from behind, often in the last minute, to win in the playoffs.

"We were actually talking about

that in the second intermission," Newington senior Tyler Leavitt said. "We knew they were going to come out hard and we had to prevent any opportunities they could get. We played lockdown defense."

Newington held off Conard in the final period and in the final minute when Conard pulled its goalie, and won its first state championship since 2013, 3-1 over Conard at Quinnipiac's People's

United Center on Thursday night.

"It's been a while," Newington coach Dave Harackiewicz said. "I feel great for these guys."

Newington's co-op team is comprised of players from Newington, Cromwell, Manchester, Berlin and Canton.

Ninth-seeded Conard (12-11-2) scored first, when Brady Narus had a goal 57 seconds into the second

Turn to Newington, Page 6

Safety Tip of the Day

After a storm, do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. Vermont/Arkansas, Saturday/Sunday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 24/25, time TBD; NCAA Elite 8 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD
UConn WBB: NCAA First Round vs. Mercer, Saturday, 1 p.m.; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. Florida/Central Florida, Sunday/Monday, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26/27, time TBD
Celtics: at Kings, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Nuggets, Sunday, 8 p.m.; at Thunder, Monday, 8 p.m.
Knicks: Wizards, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: Trail Blazers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Jazz, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: Hockey East Semifinal vs. Northeastern, Friday, 4 p.m.; Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. UMass Lowell/UMass, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Jets, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Canadiens, Monday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Thursday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Lightning, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Hurricanes, Sunday, 6 p.m.; at Devils, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Laval, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Belleville, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Springfield, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO
AUTO RACING

4 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Nalley Cars 250, Practice. (Live) FS1
5 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Folds of Honor Quik Trip 500, Practice. (Live) FS1

BASEBALL

1 p.m.: Tampa Bay Rays at Boston Red Sox. (Live) NESN
7 p.m.: Notre Dame at Louisville. (Live) ACC
7 p.m.: Mississippi State at Georgia. (Live) SEC
BASKETBALL
11:30 a.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: South Florida vs Miami. (Live) ESPN2
12 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Loyola-Chicago vs Ohio State. (Live) CBS
1:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: South Dakota vs Ole Miss. (Live) ESPN2
1:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Montana State vs Texas Tech. (Live) TNT
1:50 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Yale vs Purdue. (Live) TBS
2 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: TBA at South Carolina. (Live) ESPN
2:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Delaware vs Villanova. (Live) CBS
2:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Florida Gulf Coast vs Virginia Tech. (Live) ESPNU
4 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Illinois State at Iowa. (Live) ESPN
4 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Hawaii at Baylor. (Live) ESPN2
4 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: TBA vs Alabama. (Live) TNT
4:20 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Virginia Tech vs Texas. (Live) TBS
5 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Delaware at Maryland. (Live) ESPNU
6 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Albany (N.Y.) at Louisville. (Live) ESPN2
6:45 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: UT-Chattanooga vs Illinois. (Live) TNT
7 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Cal State Fullerton vs Duke. (Live) CBS
7:15 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Iowa State vs LSU. (Live) TBS
7:30 p.m.: Wizards at Knicks. (Live), MSG
7:30 p.m.: Trail Blazers at Nets. (Live), YES
7:30 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Georgia Tech at Kansas. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: Grizzlies at Hawks. (Live) NBA
8 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Fairfield at Texas. (Live) ESPN2
9:15 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Alabama-Birmingham vs Houston. (Live) TNT
9:30 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Davidson vs Michigan State. (Live) CBS
9:45 p.m.: NCAA Basketball Tournament First Round: Colgate vs Wisconsin. (Live) TBS
10 p.m.: Celtics at Kings. (Live), NBCSB
10 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Montana State at Stanford. (Live) ESPN2
10 p.m.: NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament First Round: Texas-Arlington at Iowa State. (Live) ESPNU
10 p.m.: Bulls at Suns. (Live) NBA
GOLF
2 p.m.: Valspar Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
4 p.m.: Hockey East Tournament: Connecticut vs Northeastern. (Live) NESN. Radio: 97.9
5 p.m.: College Hockey (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Capitals at Hurricanes. (Live) NHL
8 p.m.: Bruins at Jets. (Live) NESN
8:30 p.m.: College Hockey (Live) CBSSN
11 p.m.: Panthers at Ducks. (Live) SPRTNET
SOCCER
4 p.m.: Premier League Soccer Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Leeds United. (Live) USA

WEDNESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division V—Semifinals
SMSA 78, CAPITAL PREP 71 (2OT)
CAPITAL PREP (18-8): Keyshawn Mitchell 12-2-26, Quincy Ferguson 5-0-13, Mehki Tyson-Slaughter 5-1-9, Elijah Graig 4-2-11, Nehemiah Johnson 3-0-7, Omarie Campbell 1-0-2, Josiah Evans 0-3-3. Totals 30-8-71.
SMSA (22-4): King Shaw 4-1-11, Nizaiyah Bogar 2-4-9, Abijah Miller 5-3-13, Kemani Thompson 3-4-10, Daniel Hernandez 9-6-25, Zahkeer Kerr 4-2-10. Totals 37-21-78.
CS

	19	11	16	13	7	5	71
	14	16	12	17	7	12	78

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC State Meets
CLASS M, LATE
Top 10 **teams:** 1. Pomperaug, 792.5; 2. Hand, 459; 3. Farmington, 385; 4. East Lyme, 354; 5. Windsor, 330.5; 6. Weston, 306; 7. Masuk, 302; 8. Middletown, 294; 9. Brookfield, 287; 10. Avon, 254.
50 free: 1. Logan Keane, Pomperaug, 12.82; 2. Matthew DeStefano, Brookfield, 22.13; 3. Conner Staron, Windsor, 22.15; 4. Ryan Zambrzycki, Farmington, 22.43; 5. Jakub Zukowski, Farmington, 22.72; 6. Benjamin Steward, Wilton, 22.77.
100 **free:** 1. Elliot Lee, Hand, 46.03; 2. Andrew Strickland, Middletown, 46.30; 3. Eric Wang, East Lyme, 48.34; 4. Collin Thompson, Pomperaug, 48.37; 5. Conner Staron, Windsor, 48.51; 5. Jack Fry, Pomperaug, 48.51.
200 **free:** 1. Jude Boukarroum, Brookfield, 1:43.98; 2. Cody Lonsberry, Suffield co-op, 1:44.25; 3. Jack Fry, Pomperaug, 1:45.28; 4. Jack Signorello, Hand, 1:46.75; 5. Eric Wang, East Lyme, 1:48.90; 6. Kenneth Clark, Masuk, 1:49.40.
500 **free:** 1. Cody Lonsberry, Suffield co-op, 4:40.60; 2. Jack Signorello, Hand, 4:47.89; 3. Brendan Kirberger, Masuk, 4:48.57; 4. Colin Martin, Pomperaug, 4:49.10; 5. Kenneth Clark, Masuk, 4:56.06; 6. Graham Lewis, Weston, 4:57.15.
200 **IM:** 1. Elliot Lee, Hand, 1:49.91; 2. Timothy Regan, Pomperaug, 1:53.46; 3. Collin Thompson, Pomperaug, 1:55.99; 4. Edward Kim, Weston, 1:56.49; 5. Jack Ferguson, Haddam-Killingworth co-op, 1:58.82; 6. Joseph Starkey, Hand, 1:59.81.
100 **fly:** 1. K.C. Green, Pomperaug, 53.00; 2. Jerick Lagamao, Lyman Hall/Coginchaug, 53.31; 3. Jude Boukarroum, Brookfield, 53.46; 4. Tyler Grubelich, Farmington, 54.07; 5. Samuel McHugh, Masuk, 54.50; 6. Calvin Chen, Farmington, 54.51.
100 **back:** 1. Timothy Regan, Pomperaug, 52.21; 2. Joseph Starkey, Hand, 53.37; 3. Edward Kim, Weston, 53.39; 4. Jonah Kehew, Hand, 53.58; 5. Jerick Lagamao, Lyman Hall/Coginchaug, 54.88; 6. Ryan

Huang, East Lyme, 55.87.
100 **breast:** 1. K.C. Green, Pomperaug, 57.74; 2. Matthew DeStefano, Brookfield, 59.02; 3. Logan Keane, Pomperaug, 59.49; 4. Andrew Strickland, Middletown, 1:00.57; 5. Jack Ferguson, Haddam-Killingworth co-op, 1:00.62; 6. Alexander Lee, Farmington, 1:00.88.
200 **free relay:** 1. East Lyme (Ken Chen, Brendan Fant, Ryan Huang, Eric Wang), 1:29.35; 2. Pomperaug, 1:30.85; 3. Weston, 1:31.20; 4. Middletown, 1:32.24; 5. Berlin, 1:32.82; 6. Wilton, 1:33.32.
400 **free relay:** 1. Hand (Ian Looby, Jack Signorello, Joseph Starkey, Elliot Lee), 3:15.31; 2. Windsor, 3:16.87; 3. Pomperaug, 3:16.95; 4. Weston, 3:20.55; 5. Farmington, 3:22.12; 6. Brookfield, 3:24.25.
200 **medley relay:** 1. Pomperaug (Timothy Regan, Brayden Green, Cole McKirryher, Collin Thompson), 1:37.34; 2. Hand, 1:38.19; 3. Farmington, 1:39.51; 4. East Lyme, 1:40.58; 5. Windsor, 1:43.09; 6. Middletown, 1:43.17.

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS HOCKEY

CIAC State Tournaments
Division III—Final at People's United Center, Quinnipiac, Hamden
NEWINGTON CO-OP 3, CONARD 1

BOYS SWIMMING

CIAC STATE OPEN DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP
Final **results:** 1. Whitaker Grover, Greenwich, 565.25; 2. Andrew Bell, South Windsor, 552.60; 3. Finn Moynahan, Fairfield co-op, 524.75; 4. Ben Bradley, Norwalk/McMahon, 520.65; 5. Jack Krug, New Canaan, 484.95; 6. John Holland, Fairfield co-op, 483.65; 7. Jayden Satir, Greenwich, 483.25; 8. Jonah Genser, Hall, 470.85; 9. Alex Rosania, Southington, 429.05; 10. Griffin Casey, Wilton, 415.50; 11. Giacomo Colangelo, Shepaug, 399.65; 12. John Courtemache, Northwestern, 393.80; 13. Orion Heiser, Hamden, 390.60; 14. Jay Shah, Glastonbury, 389.35; 15. Christian Butler, North Haven co-op, 387.25; 16. Donald Mulligan, Woodland, 382.05; 17. Jacob Winston, Greenwich, 375.75; 18. Sarah Grady, Avon, 375.65; 19. Nicholas Smith, Southington, 365.45; 20. Janson Mcquaid, Norwalk/McMahon, 363.50; 21. Matthew Magnotta, Darien, 351.95; 22. Cody Schad, Middletown, 351.70; 23. Diego Carrillo, Middletown, 347.30; 24. Asa Bannerman, Northwestern, 314.10.

SATURDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments
Division III—Final at Mohegan Sun Arena
No. 2 Northwest Catholic (25-2) vs. No. 1 Bristol Central (27-0), 8:15 p.m.

RED SOX

Dalbec homers in debut

By Jason Mastrodonato

Boston Herald

FORT MYERS, Fla. — After leading the Grapefruit League with seven homers in 2021, Bobby Dalbec is at it again.

Hitting second as the designated hitter in the Red Sox' first game of the spring on Thursday, Dalbec hammered the second pitch he saw over the faux Green Monster in left field for a two-run homer as the Sox went on to topple the Twins, 14-1.

"Last week I was working on my backyard and putting a fence in and now I'm back playing, so I'm glad to be out here and not doing yard work anymore," Dalbec said.

While Dalbec was locked in as the everyday first baseman entering camp last year, he now finds himself in an uncertain position as the Red Sox still circle the wagons on free agents and trades. But they've whiffed on the top four left-handed hitting first baseman who were available via trade/free agency; Matt Olson, Freddie Freeman, Kyle Schwarber and Anthony Rizzo have all gone elsewhere.

It remains to be seen if Dalbec will be the starting first baseman against righties and lefties, if the Sox will promote top prospect Triston Casas, who hits left-handed, or if they'll find someone else to bring on board.

More speed needed from Duran: Jarren Duran now admits he lost himself in the lights and intimidation of the big league environment during his debut season in 2021, often making himself small and dimming his personality to appease those around him, he thinks it might've been a mistake.

In camp this spring and trying to win a big league job, Duran is being reminded by his coaches that he needs to come out of this shell.

"I came in when we were kind of struggling and not doing super hot, so I just tried to sit back and observe instead of asking too many questions," he said Thursday after

YANKEES

Rizzo on his return: 'This is where we wanted to be'

By Kristie Ackert

New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — It was a weird feeling for Anthony Rizzo. Spring training had started all around him in southeast Florida and the first baseman found himself sitting in his car waiting for the sprinklers on the high school field to turn off so he could get a workout in.

It was time to get back to work and he wanted to be with the Yankees.

"This is where we wanted to be," Rizzo said Thursday after his first workout with the Yankees. "It's a great fit for trying to win a World Series and that's what it's all about here. And that's the best thing to ask for the players, to be on the team that's competing to win the last game."

Rizzo's deal became official Thursday, even though it had been worked out late Tuesday night. His two-year, \$32 million deal brought him back to the Yankees, who had acquired him in a deadline trade last July. The Yankees placed Domingo German, who just started throwing, on the 60-day injured list to make room on the 40-man roster for Rizzo.

Volpe will see action: Anthony Volpe is at least a year away. The 20-year-old is



The Red Sox's Jeter Downs waits to bat during a spring training game against the Twins on Thursday at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers, Florida. **JAKE SEINER/AP**

going 1-for-3 with an infield single in the Sox' first Grapefruit League game of the year, a 14-1 win over the Twins. "These guys have so much on their plate, the last thing I want to do is be that annoying rookie who is like, 'Oh, I have so many questions.' I can see how that would bother them."

Playing loose was a big reason why he felt successful prior to his big league debut. He crushed the ball during winter league, again at the Olympics and continued to be successful in Triple-A Worcester.

Red Sox hammer Twins: Using mostly backups and minor league relievers, the Red Sox hammered the Twins in a 14-1 victory to open their Grapefruit League schedule.

They out-hit the Twins, 14-2. Dalbec, Duran, Jeter Downs, Franchy Cordero and Rob Refsnyder were the most recognizable names in the Sox' lineup, but Cora still felt like it was a day worth celebrating.

"The hard work by player development and getting ready to play, it showed," Cora said.

Nathan Eovaldi will start on Friday against the Twins. Rafael Devers, Xander Bogaerts, Jackie Bradley Jr. and Christian Vazquez are among those who will make their spring debuts. ... Former Red Sox ground-ball specialist Derek Lowe will be in camp to work with Tanner Houck.

"Talked to him a little bit and some of the young guys, but he was really good for us in '18 and '19 and he lives in the area, so you don't have to spend on plane tickets and all that," Cora joked. "We can save money."

BASEBALL

LONG BEACH STATE 7, UCONN 1

MEN'S LACROSSE

TRINITY 21, ROGER WILLIAMS 5

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

CARROLL AT EASTERN, LATE

WOMEN'S TENNIS

UConn 7, BETHUNE-COOKMAN 0

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round (Buffalo, N.Y.)
NEW MEXICO STATE 70, UCONN 63

BASEBALL

CENTRAL 8, DARTMOUTH 2
TRINITY AT ESSEX, PP.D.
WESLEYAN VS. MACALESTER, LATE

SOFTBALL

BABSON 13, WESLEYAN 0 (5)
WHEATON 5, WESLEYAN 1
EDGEWOOD 4, WESLEYAN 0
EASTERN 8, SALVE REGINA 0
EASTERN 2, WOOSTER 1
ST. JOSEPH 8, ALBRIGHT 7
UMASS-BOSTON 2, ST. JOSEPH 1
HOLY CROSS AT HARTFORD (2), PP.D.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

BROWN 22, CENTRAL 2
LA SELL 17, ST. JOSEPH 16 (OT)

WOMEN'S TENNIS

TRINITY AT WESLEYAN, LATE

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
Yale vs. Purdue, 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

WNIT—First Round
Quinnipiac at Rhode Island, 6 p.m.
NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round
Fairfield at Texas, 8 p.m.

METS

DeGrom embarrasses hitters in live batting practice

By Deesha Thosar

New York Daily News

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Francisco Lindor stepped into the box on Thursday to face Jacob deGrom for the first time in his eight-year career. The star shortstop wasn't there very long.

DeGrom retired Lindor after just three pitches, the putout pitch a nasty slider that induced a swing and a miss and an audible, "wow" from the shortstop. Lindor guessed that deGrom's fastball was sitting near 98 mph, while his breaking ball was around 92 mph.

"He looked like he was on crack," Lindor said, laughing.

Jeff McNeil was up next to face the two-time Cy Young award winner. Though McNeil struck out on four pitches, he was able to get a piece of one fastball on a check-swing foul. Exclaimed McNeil: "Yes! I touched it!"

Pumping in noise: Mets position players were introduced to a vintage Showalter drill at Clover Park on Thursday. As a pitching machine launched pop-flies into the sky, artificial crowd noise blared through the stadium speakers. Infielders were forced to adjust to the max crowd volume, similar to a real-feel in the regular season.

"You always try to simulate game situations," said the Mets skipper, who has been implementing certain drills with pumped in crowd noise since his early days (at least) managing the Baltimore Orioles.

Free to the public: The Mets will play a five-to-six inning intrasquad game on Friday at Clover Park's main stadium. The game will be free to the public, so fans who want to watch star players get ready for the regular season can enter without purchasing a ticket.

Outfielder Brandon Nimmo said players will also devote some time on Friday to signing autographs for fans. Pitchers Thomas Szapucki and Jose Rodriguez, along with some other minor-league arms, will take the mound for the game.

Acquisitions: Former Phillies outfielder Travis Jankowski joined the Mets on Thursday on a one-year minor-league deal. Left-handed reliever Chasen Shreve also returned to the Mets on a minor-league deal.

Jankowski, 30, appeared in 76 games with the Phillies last season and slashed .252/.364/.351 with 24 runs, 10 RBI, 22 walks and five steals. The left-handed hitter owns a career .239/.322/.318 slashline with 35 doubles, nine triples, nine home runs, 52 RBI, 69 steals and 118 walks in 426 games over seven seasons for the Padres, Reds, and Phillies.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Hockey East **Tourney**—Semifinal (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)

UConn vs. Northeastern, 4 p.m.
ECAC **Tourney**—Semifinal (Lake Placid, N.Y.)

Quinnipiac vs. Colgate, 4 p.m.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—Frozen Four (University Park, Pa.)

Yale vs. Ohio State, 7 p.m.

BASEBALL

Eastern vs. Wisconsin-Stout (Fort Myers, Fla.), 9 a.m.
Fairfield vs. North Dakota State (Port Charlotte, Fla.), 2 p.m.

Sacred Heart at St. John's, 3 p.m.
Wesleyan vs. Macalester (Tucson, Ariz.), 3:30 p.m.
Quinnipiac at VCU, 6:30 p.m.

Wesleyan vs. Gustavus Adolphus (Tucson, Ariz.), 7 p.m.
Hartford at NJIT, 7:30 p.m.

Yale at California Baptist, 9 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Wesleyan vs. Knox (Leesburg, Fla.), 10:30 a.m.
Manhattan at Hartford (2), noon

Fairleigh Dickinson at Central (2), 1 p.m.
Harvard at Yale (2), 1:30 p.m.

Eastern vs. McDaniel (Clermont, Fla.), 1:45 p.m.
Wesleyan vs. Loras (Leesburg, Fla.), 12:45 p.m.
Bryant at Sacred Heart, 2:30 p.m.

Fairfield at Rutgers, 3:45 p.m.
Eastern vs. Rhodes (Clermont, Fla.), 4 p.m.

UConn at Georgetown, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round
Mercer at UConn, 1 p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Hockey East **Tourney**—Final (TD Garden, Boston, Mass.)
UConn vs. TBD (if necessary), 4 p.m.

BASEBALL

Eastern vs. Bethel (Fort Myers, Fla.), 9 a.m.
Central vs. Dartmouth (Auburndale, Fla.), 11 a.m.

Fairfield vs. North Dakota State (2, Port Charlotte, Fla.), 11 a.m.
Sacred Heart at St. John's, 1 p.m.

Quinnipiac at VCU, 2 p.m.
Central vs. Bradley (Auburndale, Fla.), 3 p.m.
Yale at California Baptist, 8 p.m.

UConn at UC-San Diego, 9 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	42	26	.618	—
Boston	42	28	.600	1
Toronto	39	30	.565	3 ½
Brooklyn	36	34	.514	7
New York	29	40	.420	13 ½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	46	24	.657	—
Charlotte	35	35	.500	11
Atlanta	34	35	.493	11 ½
Washington	29	39	.426	16
Orlando	18	52	.257	28

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Milwaukee	44	26	.629	—
Chicago	41	28	.594	2 ½
Cleveland	39	30	.565	4 ½
Indiana	23	47	.329	21
Detroit	18	51	.261	25 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	48	22	.686	—
Dallas	43	26	.623	4 ½
New Orleans	28	41	.406	19 ½
San Antonio	27	43	.386	21
Houston	17	52	.246	30 ½

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	43	26	.623	—
Denver	42	28	.600	1 ½
Minnesota	41	30	.577	3
Portland	26	42	.382	16 ½
Oklahoma City	20	49	.290	23

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
x-Phoenix	56	14	.800	—
Golden State	47	23	.671	9
L.A. Clippers	36	36	.500	21
L.A. Lakers	29	40	.420	26 ½
Sacramento	25	46	.352	31 ½
x-clinched playoff spot				

THURSDAY'S RESULT

Detroit at Orlando, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Denver at Cleveland, 7:30p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Memphis at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30p.m.
Indiana at Houston, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Miami, 8p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 10p.m.
Chicago at Phoenix, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Minnesota, 5p.m.
Dallas at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 8p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Memphis at Houston, 3:30p.m.
Portland at Indiana, 3:30p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 6p.m.
Oklahoma City at Orlando, 6p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 6p.m.
Utah at New York, 7:30p.m.
Boston at Denver, 8p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 8:30p.m.
Toronto at Philadelphia, 8:30p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES

New Orleans at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Portland at Detroit, 7p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Utah at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8p.m.
Boston at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Charlotte 116, Atlanta 106
Denver 127, Washington 109
Philadelphia 118, Cleveland 114
New York 128, Portland 98
Dallas 113, Brooklyn 111
Phoenix 129, Houston 112
Minnesota 124, L.A. Lakers 104
San Antonio 122, Oklahoma City 120
Utah 125, Chicago 110
Boston 110, Golden State 88
Milwaukee 135, Sacramento 126
Toronto 103, L.A. Clippers 100

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

TOTAL REBOUNDS	TM	RPG	TRB	G
Nikola Jokic	DEN	13.8	867	63
Rudy Gobert	UTA	14.8	800	54
Clint Capela	ATL	12.0	732	61
D. Sabonis	TOT	12.0	720	60
Jonas Valanciunas	NOP	11.4	718	63
Nikola Vucevic	CHI	11.5	699	61
G Antetokounmpo	MIL	11.5	679	59
Julius Randle	NYK	9.9	664	67
Steven Adams	MEM	9.9	653	66
Joel Embiid	PHI	11.4	637	56
Karl-an. Towns	MIN	9.9	631	64
Christian Wood	HOU	10.1	629	62
Jusuf Nurkic	POR	11.1	619	56
Wendell Carter Jr.	ORL	10.1	612	59
Jarrett Allen	CLE	10.8	602	56
Ivica Zubac	LAC	8.5	560	66

OFF. REBOUNDS	TM	ORB	ORB	G
Steven Adams	MEM	4.7	307	66
Mitchell Robinson	NYK	3.9	247	63
Clint Capela	ATL	3.8	232	61
Robert Williams	BOS	4.0	227	57
Jakob Poeltl	SAS	3.9	225	58
Rudy Gobert	UTA	3.6	197	54
D. Sabonis	TOT	3.2	193	63
Jonas Valanciunas	NOP	3.1	193	63
Jarrett Allen	CLE	3.4	192	56
Jarred Vanderbilt	MIN	3.0	189	63
Kevin Looney	GSW	2.7	187	70
through Wednesday				

TENNIS

BNP PARIBAS OPEN

At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., **hardcourt outdoors**
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#4 Rafael Nadal d.
Nick Kyrgios, 7-6(0), 5-7, 6-4.
#12 Cameron Norrie vs.
#19 Carlos Alcaraz, late

WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#5 Paula Badosa d. #21 Veronika Kudermetova, 6-3, 6-2.
#6 Maria Sakkari d.
#17 Elena Rybakina, 7-5, 6-4.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL				
FAVORITE		LINE	UNDERDOG	
Michigan State	Pk		Davidson	
Duke	18½		CS Fullerton	
USC	2		Miami	
Auburn	15		Jacksonville State	
LSU	4		Iowa State	
Wisconsin	7½		Colgate	
Texas	Pk		Virginia Tech	
Purdue	16½		Yale	
Houston	8		UAB	
Illinois	8		Chattanooga	
Loyola (Chi.)	Pk		Ohio State	
Villanova	15		Delaware	
Alabama	4		Notre Dame	
Texas Tech	15		Montana State	
Arizona	20½		Wright State	
NBA	Pk		Seton Hall	

FRIDAY FAVORITE				
LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG	LINE	
at Philadelphia	2½ (221)	Orlando		
Denver	3 (221)	at Cleveland		
at Brooklyn	13½ (225)	Portland		
at Toronto	8½ (224½)	L.A. Lakers		
at Atlanta	off (off)	Memphis		
at New York	off (off)	Washington		
at Houston	off (off)	Indiana		
at Miami	off (off)	Okla. City		
at San Antonio	8 (236½)	New Orleans		
at Utah	off (off)	L.A. Clippers		
Boston	8½ (225)	at Sacra.		
at Phoenix	6 (230)	Chicago		

NHL FAVORITE				
LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE		
at Ottawa	off	Philadelphia	off	
at Carolina	off	Washington	off	
Boston	-121	at Winnipeg	+109	
at Calgary	off	Buffalo	+109	
at Anaheim	off	Florida	off	
at San Jose	off	Colorado	off	

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	60	41	13	6	88	248	175		
Tampa Bay	60	39	15	6	84	204	172		
Toronto	60	38	17	5	81	223	181		
Boston	61	37	19	5	79	184	165		
Detroit	60	24	29	7	55	175	228		
Buffalo	60	20	32	8	48	162	212		
Ottawa	60	21	34	5	47	158	198		
Montreal	60	16	36	8	40	150	230		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	59	41	13	5	87	198	139		
N.Y. Rangers	60	38	17	5	81	184	157		
Pittsburgh	61	36	16	9	81	198	164		
Washington	61	33	18	10	76	201	172		
Columbus	61	31	27	3	65	203	223		
N.Y. Islanders	57	24	24	9	57	155	161		
New Jersey	61	22	34	5	49	185	220		
Philadelphia	59	18	30	11	47	148	206		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Colorado	61	43	13	5	91	236	170		
St. Louis	59	34	17	8	76	211	165		
Minnesota	59	35	20	4	74	222	195		
Nashville	60	35	21	4	74	194	167		
Dallas	58	32	23	3	67	170	173		
Winnipeg	61	28	23	10	66	189	190		
Chicago	61	22	30	9	53	162	210		
Arizona	60	20	36	4	44	159	216		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Calgary	60	37	16	7	81	210	146		
Los Angeles	62	33	21	8	74	178	176		
Edmonton	60	33	23	4	70	200	192		
Vegas	62	32	26	4	68	195	190		
Vancouver	61	30	24	7	67	179	177		
Anaheim	63	27	25	11	65	183	201		
San Jose	59	25	26	8	60	156	185		
Seattle	62	18	38	6	42	160	224		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina at Toronto, late
Dallas at Montreal, late
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, late
Nashville at Philadelphia, late
Washington at Columbus, late
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, late
Buffalo at Edmonton, late
Detroit at Vancouver, late
San Jose at Los Angeles, late
Florida at Vegas, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7p.m.
Boston at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Buffalo at Calgary, 9p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 10p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at Minnesota, 2p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 2p.m.
New Jersey at Edmonton, 3p.m.
Los Angeles at Vegas, 4p.m.
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 5p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 5p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7p.m.
Toronto at Nashville, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 2p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 5p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 6p.m.
Arizona at San Jose, 7p.m.
Winnipeg at Chicago, 7p.m.
Buffalo at Vancouver, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Columbus 4, Ottawa 1
Minnesota 4, Boston 2
Calgary 6, New Jersey 3
Tampa Bay 4, Seattle 1

SCORING LEADERS

POINTS	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	59	33	52	85
Jon. Huberdeau, FLA	60	19	65	84
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	60	39	44	83
Johnny Gaudreau, CGY	60	27	52	79
Auston Matthews, TOR	56	45	32	77
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	58	32	43	75
Nazem Kadri, COL	58	22	51	73
J.T. Miller, VAN	59	24	49	73

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Columbus	2	0	1	7	9	4
Philadelphia	2	0	1	7	5	2
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	1	0	6	7	3
D.C. United	2	1	0	6	4	2
Atlanta	2	1	0	6	5	5
Chicago	1	0	2	5	2	0
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	4	2
Orlando City	1	1	1	4	3	2
New England	1	1	1	4	5	5
Cincinnati	1	2	0	3	2	7
Toronto FC	0	2	1	1	3	7
Inter Miami CF	0	2	1	1	1	7
Charlotte FC	0	3	0	0	1	6
CF Montreal	0	3	0	0	2	8
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	2	0	1	7	6	1
Real Salt Lake	2	0	1	7	4	2
Austin FC	2	1	0	6	10	2
Colorado	2	1	0	6	5	3
LA Galaxy	2	1	0	6	4	3
Portland	1	0	2	5	4	3
Minnesota United	1	0	2	5	3	2
FC Dallas	1	1	1	4	3	2
Houston	1	1	1	4	2	2
Nashville	1	1	1	4	2	3
Seattle	1	2	0	3	3	4
Kansas City	1	2	0	3	2	5
San Jose	0	2	1	1	4	8
Vancouver	0	2	1	1	1	6

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Miami at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1 p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3 p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30 p.m.
CF Montreal at Atlanta, 4 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago, 6 p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES

Columbus at New York, 2 p.m.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: xxxx

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Mercer, at
Gampel, 1 p.m., ABC



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The Huskies' R.J. Cole walks off the court in the second half in against New Mexico State during a first-round NCAA Tournament game Thursday in Buffalo, New York. **ELSA/GETTY**

UConn

from Page 1

He had 18 points on 6-for-11 shooting from the field. Allen, the Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year, why. In the first half Allen flashed an impressive variety of offensive moves as he scored from everywhere on the court. UConn's Andre Jackson was his primary defender, but he quickly picked up two fouls before the half had even finished. Allen had 14 points on 5-for-11 shooting from the field. He was just setting the stage for the second half when he scored 23 more, including his team's last 15

points of the game. UConn's offensive trio of Sanogo, Tyrese Martin and Cole came into the game all averaging at least 13 points. In the first half, they combined for six points on 3-for-13 shooting. The Aggies did a great job of holding them in check and forcing the Huskies' role players into taking shots. UConn struggled on both ends of the court in the first half. The Huskies shot 9-for-26 (34.6%) and 2-for-11 (18.2%) from 3. On the defensive end, it wasn't much better as New Mexico State shot 12-for-26 (46%). The Aggies went into the half with a 32-22 lead. UConn came out of the

second half with a renewed energy on both sides of the court. After a quick Sanogo bucket, New Mexico State quickly responded with a 6-0 run to put them up 38-24 and force a UConn time-out at the 18:12 mark in the second half. Out of the time-out, Cole hit a 3. On the next possession, Whaley made a 3 to cut the Aggies lead to 38-30. At 13:52, Cole hit a tough runner to cut the New Mexico State lead to 40-35. With 9:24 left in the game, Martin hit a 3 to bring the Huskies within four points, 47-43. Cole hit a 3 to make it a 47-46 Aggies lead. With 05:08 left, Martin got fouled and sank both free throws to tie up the game, 52-52.

NEW MEXICO STATE 70, UCONN 63										
NMSU	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT			
Allen	39	10-24	13-13	6	3	1	37			
Rice	35	3-8	0-0	2	4	1	9			
Henry	30	3-4	0-0	4	2	3	8			
McCants	34	2-2	0-0	2	2	3	5			
McNair Jr.	33	2-6	0-0	3	0	2	4			
Peake	9	1-1	0-0	1	0	1	3			
McKinney Jr.	17	1-3	0-0	3	1	3	2			
Alok	3	1-2	0-0	0	0	2	2			
TOTALS	—	23-50	13-13	26	12	16	70			
Three-point goals: 11-17, 64.7 (Allen 4-7, Rice 2-6, Henry 2-2, McCants 1-1, Peake 1-1), FG pct.: 46.0, FT pct.: 100, Team rebounds: 5, Turnovers: 11 (Team 4, Allen 2, Rice 2, Henry, McCants, McKinney Jr.), Blocks: 1 (McNair Jr.), Steals: 4 (Allen 2, McCants 2).										

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Cole	36	7-15	4-4	1	4	1	20
Sanogo	35	4-9	2-2	8	3	2	10
Martin	39	2-7	3-4	5	3	2	9
Whaley	33	4-7	0-0	3	0	3	9
Jackson	28	2-3	2-2	2	4	5	6
Polley	20	2-7	1-1	0	0	2	7
Alok	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	1	2
Gaffney	6	0-2	0-0	0	1	1	0
TOTALS	—	22-51	12-13	25	15	17	63
Three-point goals: 7-23, 30.4 (Martin 2-4, Cole 2-6, Polley 2-7, Whaley 1-4, Jackson 0-1, Gaffney 0-1), FG pct.: 43.1, FT pct.: 92.3, Team rebounds: 6, Turnovers: 8 (Whaley 3, Cole 2, Martin 2, Sanogo), Blocks: 4 (Whaley 4), Steals: 5 (Sanogo 3, Jackson, Gaffney).							

New Mexico State	32	28	—	70
UConn	22	41	—	63

Officials: Nelson, Henderson, Clark. Site: KeyBank Center, Buffalo, N.Y.

Online

More Huskies NCAA Tournament coverage at courant.com/sports

Fairfield

from Page 1

yet. "I've just tried to look at what was right in front of me every day and get this team to fulfill its potential and get a championship," Frager said. "It's been a dream season. This group has been a joy to coach, beginning to end. We were clear about our goals. The first one was to win a regular-season championship, not share one but win it outright, and then go [to the MAAC Tournament in] Atlantic City and not just play well, let's go down and win." Fairfield fulfilled its mission, winning 15 in a row, culminating with a 73-68 victory over Manhattan last weekend to claim the MAAC's automatic berth. The No. 15 seed Stags (25-6, 19-1 MAAC) will appear in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2001, playing at No. 2 seed Texas (26-6) at 8 p.m. Friday. "We have no illusions about what's in front of us," Frager said. "This is a team that not only can compete but can beat any team in the country. But we told the kids in practice, 'We've prepared a certain way for 31 opponents, and if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Don't change who we are. We're not going to Texas

for a sightseeing tour." Frager, a Connecticut basketball fixture, pitched for the UConn baseball team as an undergrad but launched his life's work coaching girls basketball at Seymour High, where he won three state titles in 11 years. UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma was recruiting one of his players, Maria Conlon, and Frager became a frequent visitor to observe practices at Storrs. "That was a clinic unto itself, to be at his practices," Frager said. Frager took over at Southern Connecticut, winning 189 games in nine years. The tireless work ethic continued at Fairfield, where Frager has averaged 17 wins a year, playing in five postseason tournaments. "I know what kind of job he did when no one was talking about him," Auriemma said. "He took that job, it was going to be difficult. He's done a fabulous job there every year. It's fitting that it ends this way for Joe. What better way to wrap up your career? I'm thrilled for him." MAAC Player of the Year Lou Lopez-Senechal, a senior from France, leads Fairfield with 19.6 points per game, including 24 in the MAAC Tournament final. Andrea Hernangomez, a senior from Spain, is the leading rebounder

(8.3). Shelton's Sydney Lowey, a graduate transfer from Boston College, has brought backcourt experience and scoring (9.3) and fifth-year senior Callie Cavanaugh, a transfer from Florida International, is averaging 9.6 points. The Stags were hardened by their the nonconference schedule, with losses to Rutgers, Yale, Florida Gulf Coast, UMass and Indiana, but started MAAC play with wins over perennial conference contenders Marist and Quinnipiac. "We purposely scheduled a difficult nonconference schedule," Frager said. "The ship was pointed in the right direction after we won at Quinnipiac [Dec. 20] because we had always struggled there." Can he really walk away now with so much to smile about? "I loved stepping back and watching them celebrate after the game," Frager said. "As far as mixed emotions go, we've won 15 games in a row, so I wouldn't be human if second thoughts didn't creep into the back of my mind a little bit. As far as reconsidering, or pulling a Brett Favre or Tom Brady, I don't know about that. But this has certainly been a special season."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

NFL ROUNDUP

Patriots sign Saints WR/RB Montgomery to 2-year contract

Courant news services

The Patriots signed former Saints wide receiver/running back Ty Montgomery to a 2-year, \$4 million free-agent contract, according to multiple reports.

Montgomery, 29, is coming off a poor statistical season in New Orleans. He averaged 2.9 yards per carry on 15 rushes and caught 16 passes for 95 yards without scoring a touchdown. Montgomery also played on special teams, where he took 48% of the Saints' snaps a year ago.

He originally broke out as a hybrid receiver/running back and return man with the Packers, who drafted him in the third round of the 2015 NFL Draft.

Montgomery's addition could help offset the losses of running back Brandon Bolden and fullback Jakob Johnson, who doubled as special teams regulars.

Montgomery is the second external free agent to sign with the Patriots after former Texans cornerback Terrance Mitchell.

NFL reporter Josina Anderson first reported Montgomery reached terms with New England. — *Andrew Callahan, Boston Herald*

Giants: Veteran Ryan released

The New York Giants have released veteran safety Logan Ryan and re-signed backup offensive lineman Corey Cunningham.

The Giants announced the moves Thursday while also confirming the free agent signings of quarterback Tyrod Taylor and offensive linemen Mark Glowinski and Jon Feliciano.

Ryan started 30 of 31 games after signing before the start of the 2020 season. He had a team-high 209 tackles in two seasons, including a career-best 117 this past season. He was the Giants' nominee for the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, which recognizes an NFL player for outstanding community service as well as excellence on the field.

A former Rutgers player, Ryan was Patriots' third-round draft choice in 2013. He played on the Patriots teams that defeated Seattle in the 2015 Super Bowl and Atlanta in the Super Bowl two years later. He joined the Titans as a free agent in 2017.

Xavier McKinney, who had a team-high five interceptions, and Julian Love are the top safeties on the current roster. Jabrill Peppers is a free agent.

Cunningham split his time this past season between the practice squad and active roster. He played in 12 games. — *Associated Press*

Jets: Reed arrives with chip

Call it a chip. Maybe supreme confidence. Or unshakeable swagger.

All D.J. Reed knows is when he steps on the football field, there's no doubt as to how valuable he is. That's why the New York Jets' new cornerback was a bit offended when the Seahawks came to him with their offer to keep him in Seattle.

"In my opinion and my agent's opinion, it was disrespectful for my level of play and the player that I am," Reed said during a Zoom call Thursday.

Reed, who added he wanted to stay in Seattle and appreciated his time there, officially signed with the Jets on Thursday, two days after agreeing to a deal that a person with direct knowledge of the contract told Associated Press was for three years and worth \$33 million. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the team doesn't announce terms of contracts.

Meanwhile, the Jets and defensive end Jacob Martin have agreed to terms on a three-year deal worth up to \$16.5 million, according to a person with direct knowledge of the contract. The person spoke to Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not yet announced the signing. ESPN first reported the Jets' deal with Martin. — *Associated Press*

Hockey

from Page 1

age with 10 shutouts in 30 starts.

It'll be the first time in Boston's TD Garden for many of the Huskies.

"Everyone's just excited to play in a rink with so much history," said Gatcomb, from Woburn, Massachusetts. "I don't think there will be too many nerves, just a lot of bright lights you've got to block out and dial it in. I think it'll be a good experience for everyone."

When UConn joined Hockey East and hired Cavanaugh, a longtime assistant at Boston College, in 2014, he bristled at the suggestion he needed to "change the culture" of the program. He looked around, saw the success UConn was having in a number of sports and determined, instead, to get hockey to that level. Both

basketball programs are in the NCAA Tournament this week, and now hockey can join them.

"Up and down the athletic department, it just oozes success," Cavanaugh said. "My job was to just get on board and do what these other coaches are doing. All I had to do is instill the culture UConn athletics has in all its sports into the hockey program. It's fun for us now that we're in a position to compete for a championship."

"It was great, the game we played last week, but we're playing for a trophy this week. Our kids are pretty focused on that. They have certainly put BU in the rearview mirror, and there's a reason the windshield is a lot bigger than the rearview mirror."

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Did you know?

Only one in five teens believes texting impairs their ability to drive. Eighty percent believe it has no impact.

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NCAA TOURNAMENT



RICHMOND 67, IOWA 63

Spiders collect first big upset

By John Wawrow
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Jacob Gilyard scored 24 points, Tyler Burton added 18 points and 11 rebounds, and No. 12 seed Richmond leaned on its experience to hold off Big Ten tournament champ Iowa 67-63 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday.

Nathan Cayo also had 15 points, including a couple of big baskets down the stretch, as the Atlantic 10 Tournament champs improved their NCAA tourney record against fifth-seeded teams to 4-0.

The Spiders (24-12) will face the Midwest Region's No. 4 seed, Providence, after the Friars defeated South Dakota State earlier in the day.

Keegan Murray scored 21 points and Patrick McCaffery added 18 for the Hawkeyes (26-10), who were unable to carry over the momentum of winning four times in four days at the Big Ten Tournament last weekend. In winning the title with a 75-66 win over Purdue on Sunday, Iowa set conference tournament records with 123 field goals and 351 points.

The Hawkeye's fourth-best offense nationally, which entered the NCAA Tournament averaging 83.8 points, was held to its third-lowest total of the year and worst production since a 48-46 loss at Rutgers on Jan. 19.

The Spiders are making their 10th tournament appearance and first since 2011, when they reached the Sweet 16 as — you guessed it — the No. 12 seed. They reached the Sweet 16 that year before losing to Kansas.

Led by sixth-year senior Grant Golden, Richmond's 20-player roster is made up of five fifth-year graduate seniors — Gilyard



Richmond players huddle up during the second half of their victory over No. 5 seed Iowa in an NCAA Tournament first-round game Thursday in Buffalo, N.Y. The Spiders are the No. 12 seed in the Midwest Region. GETTY

is one of them — and three fourth-year seniors. And that experience showed down the stretch, when Gilyard sealed the win by hitting all four of his free-throw attempts in the final 16 seconds.

After the teams traded the lead seven times, the Spiders never trailed after Golden laid in an inbounds pass from Gilyard to put Richmond ahead 40-39 with 14:33 remaining. It was Golden's first basket after missing his first nine attempts.

No call?

Iowa took issue with what could well have been a missed foul call when Richmond's Matt Grace appeared to foul Kris Murray on a 3-point attempt with about a minute remaining and the Spiders up 60-57. Grace was credited with a block on the play, but replays showed he clearly hit Murray's elbow. Cayo then completed a three-point play at the other end.

Chilly first half

Iowa went 1 of 13 from beyond the 3-point arc in a cold-shooting first half in which the teams combined 3 of 22; the Hawks finished 6 of 29 from beyond the arc. The first half featured six lead changes with neither team leading by more than four.

Big picture

Iowa has had a couple of rough stays at the NCAA Tournament. The Hawkeyes, the fourth team to win four games in four days at the Big Ten tourney, were the No. 2 seed last year when national player of the year Luka Garza and the Hawkeyes were eliminated by Oregon in the second round.

Richmond's six graduate seniors — including two walk-ons — elected to return for their COVID-19 eligible season two years after Richmond's tournament hopes were dashed when the pandemic canceled the 2020 tournament.

ROUNDUP

Zags pull away late; Baylor starts strong

Drew Timme scored 22 of his 32 points in the second half and top overall seed Gonzaga struggled to shake No. 16 seed Georgia State for 30 minutes before pulling away late for a 93-72 win in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Thursday in Portland, Oregon.

The tournament's No. 1 team for the second straight season, the Zags (27-3) were sluggish early and couldn't make a basket for a long stretch of the first half. Even when Gonzaga's offense kicked into gear after halftime, the Panthers didn't fold.

The eventual overwhelming surge from the Bulldogs finally arrived with about 10 minutes to go. Gonzaga went on a 24-1 run, turning a four-point game into the blowout that was expected. The Zags will face the West Region's No. 9 seed, Memphis, in the second round Saturday.

Timme was the catalyst, topping 30 points for the fifth time in his career while also grabbing 13 rebounds. Chet Holmgren, the Zags' 7-foot freshman, added 19 points, 17 rebounds and seven blocks.

Corey Allen led Georgia State (18-10) with 16 points, and Jalen Thomas and Kane Williams both added 12. The Panthers trailed by two at halftime despite shooting 29% and were down 62-58 with 10 ½ minutes left.

Memphis 64, Boise State 53: DeAndre Williams had 14 points, Jalen Duren made a crucial basket down the stretch and the ninth-seeded Tigers held off a second-half rally.

Duren finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Tigers (22-10), who were 9-8 after 17 games but went on a late-season charge to reach the tournament for the first time since 2014.

Baylor 85, Norfolk State 49: Matthew Mayer scored a career-high 22 points, and defending national champ Baylor (27-6)

opened with a blowout victory in Fort Worth, Texas.

Freshman standout Jeremy Sochan added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Bears (27-6), the top seed in the East Region who had to travel less than 100 miles from their Waco campus.

North Carolina 95, Marquette 63: Brady Manek scored 28 points, Caleb Love had 21 of his 23 before halftime and the Tar Heels rolled in first-year coach Hubert Davis' NCAA Tournament debut.

Love made six 3-pointers, all in the first 19 minutes, to tie UNC's single-game tournament record as the eighth-seeded Tar Heels (25-9) built a 28-point lead.

Manek, who also had 11 rebounds, finished with five 3s.

Michigan 75, Colorado St. 63: Freshman Frankie Collins, pressed into the starting lineup because starting point guard DeVante' Jones was out with a concussion, had season highs of 14 points, six rebounds and 31 minutes to help the 11th-seeded Wolverines rally from a 15-point deficit in a South Region game in Indianapolis.

Big man Hunter Dickinson led Michigan with 21 points on 8-of-10 shooting. Eli Brooks had 16 points and Caleb Houston added 13 for Michigan (18-14).

Tennessee 88, Longwood 56: Santiago Vescovi scored 18 points and No. 3 seed Tennessee cruised in a South Region opener.

The Volunteers (27-7) shot 60% from the field and had four players score in double figures.

Providence 66, South Dakota St. 57: Al Durham had 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Jared Bynum made three big free throws with 29.9 seconds left as No. 4 seed Providence (26-5) snapped the longest winning streak in college basketball.

The Jackrabbits had won 21 straight.

